Anime • Videogames • Manga

Genki Life Magazine

19

春 2015

Spring

Mar 20-June 20

Meet the U.S. Finalists

Ōkami to Kōshinryō (Spice and Wolf)

Akame ga Kill

Spring Conventions

Manga Inside!

Also

Seiyūs of Winter 2015

OMNI Expo Special Guest

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what the con goer
loves to listen to. Peroid.

www.missionstartpodcast.com

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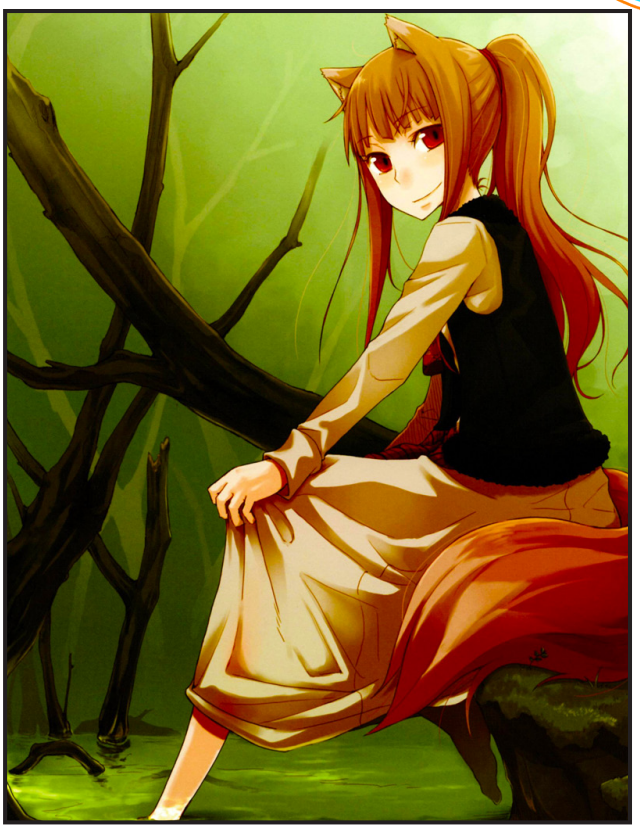

Holo, the wolf harvest diety, from Ōkami to Kōshinryō (Spice and Wolf)..

Issue 19, Spring • March 20 – June 20, 2015

Genki Life Magazine is published seasonal, quarterly, by *The Genshiken of the Inland Empire* anime club, a subsidiary of *Studio ArtMix: Intelligent Graphic Design*. Subscription of this magazine is free of charge. Please email **glm@studioartmix.com** your request to subscribe to this digital publication as well as any other inquiries about this publication.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The winter season is what it is…winter. Not much to do…somewhat. The biggest thing that went on was Animé Los Angeles back in January. I can't get enough of that small winter convention in our neck of the woods. This was the first year that I, we, arrived at the convention on Day Zero. That way, we could get our room, settle in and plan what we want to do. Animé LA was good and all...but it rained all day that Saturday and half the day on Sunday. Though it "rained out" the convention, we all still had a great time and made the most of it. There was also the J. Paul Getty Museum for the first time. It was suggested by a friend of mine to go that day instead of other plans that I had. Luckily we went. It was a great experience.

On a side note, I was asked by some people why I have the "long(er) vowel" symbol, actually called a macron, over some of the Japanese names and words. For example; the name "Yūki" as opposed to the word "yuki." It a form of Japanese romanization of the characters called the Modified Hepburn System. Certain combinations of vowels, commonly the (o + u) combination, is written as "ō," instead of "ou." From a typographic point of view, the "ō" style is more pleasing.

- Ed Gomez

Graphic Designer
Publisher-Genki Life Magazine, President–GIE

GLM masot by Jennifer Tourtilloitt

Anime • Videogames • Manga
Genki Life Magazine

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Death Parade

QUINDECIM NI YOKOSO!

Death Parade
デス・パレード
TV • January 9–March 27, 2015 (12 Eps.)
Madhouse • Funimation

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_Parade

www.deathparade.jp

www.funimation.com/shows/death-parade/home

Director: Tachikawa, Yuzuru
Writer: Tachikawa, Yuzuru
Music: Hayashi, Yūki

Cast:
Decim = Maeno, Tamaki
Black-Haired Woman = Seto, Asami
Nōna = Ōkubo, Rumi
Ginti = Hosoya, Yoshimasa

Every creature in the world has a beginning and an end. The middle of life is the story of how they lived their lives on Earth. The only difference between animals and man is that humans live by a moral code or ethics. Many people do believe after you pass on to the next world, judgment is given to enter heaven, hell, purgatory or in another religion—reincarnation. Depending what you did in your life will determine what your fate will be in the after world.

The new anime that has came out in January 2015 called *Death Parade*, is an anime that takes the concept of what happens after death to a whole different direction of how people are being judged. The process starts when two people in separate elevators arrive to the bar called "Quindecim" and do not remember what happened in the past when they enter this bar. They are greeted by the bartender, Decim who makes drinks upon requests. As the people are trying figure out how they ended up in a bar, Decim tells them that they have to play a game gambling their own lives at stake. When people hear this absurd statement, they try to escape but to their luck there is no way out.

The staff of Quindecim: Nōna, Ginti, Decim & the Black-Haired Woman

To start the game, there is a button to push that starts the roulette of randomly picking a game. The games can either be darts, pool, video game, twister, etc. Once a game has been picked, the equipment will appear before the players. They are given the rules of the game and each are designated a color. There is sometimes special stipulations added such as body parts on the game pieces. When a player's color and an organ is on the game piece, the owner of that game piece will feel the pain depending on rules of the game. The game is over when there is only one winner.

During the game, the players may remember little pieces of what happened to them. As the game progresses, the player

may remember how they died and change their behavior. The point of the games are to get the players to reveal their true nature to be judged. Decim, the bartender is the arbitrator that judges and decide whether they get reincarnated or put into a void; there is no heaven and hell. It is Decim's sole duty to correctly determine where each person goes.

Death Parade is an interesting anime that takes the perspective of what can happen after death. It is an anime that can place the thought in the back of your head of how you lived your life. Even though people live morally or ethically, it depends on their understanding of what is good and bad in their own perspective views. If you believe that there is another life after death, then take some time to reflect on your life and make any changes you see fit. So live your life as you see it and follow what you believe in because we may never know what is on the other side of death. ❖ Philip P. Knowles

The series spawned from a short film, *Death Billiards* which was originally produced by Madhouse for the Young Animator Training Project's Anime Mirai 2013 and released on March 2, 2013

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www.alcon.org.uk

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April 24
Boston, Massachusettes
Boston Symphony Hall

May 15-16
St. Louis, Missouri
Powell Hall

June 17
Los Angeles, Califonia
Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE

July 10-11
Seattle, Washington
Benaroya Hall

www.ffdistantworlds.com

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SPRING 2015

Animarathon
March 21
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH
www.animarathon.com

Mizuumi-Con
March 21
Our Lady of the Lake University,
San Antonio, TX
www.mizuumicon.org

A-Lot-A-Con
March 21-22
SUNY Oneonta, Hunt Union
Oneonta, NY
www.alotacon.com

AICon
March 21-22
Wrest Point Convention Centre
Hobart, TAS Australia
www.aicon.org.au

AnimeJapan
March 21-22
Tokyo Big Sight, Tokyo, Japan
www.anime-japan.jp

Fannatiku Fest
March 27-28
Dixie Convention Center
St. George, UT
www.fannatikufest.com

Anime Detour
March 27-29
DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington Minneapolis South
Bloomington, MN
www.animedetour.com

Conbust
March 27-29
Smith College (Seelye Hall)
Northampton, MA
sophia.smith.edu/conbust/

Emerald City Comicon
March 27-29
Washington State Convention Center
Seattle, WA
emeraldcitycomicon.com/

EvilleCon
March 27-29
Clarion Inn
Evansville, IN
www.evillecon.com

Kawaii Kon
March 27-29
Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI
www.kawaii-kon.org

TexanCon
March 27-29
Tarleton State University
Stephenville, TX
www.texancon.com

Wizard World Louisville
March 27-29
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, KY
www.wizardworld.com/home-louisville.html

Zenkaikon
March 27-29
Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA
www.zenkaikon.com

FreeCon
March 28-29
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL
www.tallahasseeanime.com/freecon/

Newcastle Film & Comic Con
March 28-29
Metro Radio Arena
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK
www.newcastlefilmandcomiccon.com

Castle Point Anime Convention
March 29
Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, NJ
www.castlepointanime.com

Anime Boston
April 3-5
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA
www.animeboston.com

Anime Matsuri
April 3-5
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX
www.animematsuri.com

Photo by L. Tuazon

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Anime Punch: Armageddicon
April 3-5
Holiday Inn Worthington
Columbus, OH
www.animepunch.org/armageddicon/

FanExpo Vancouver
April 3-5
Vancouver Convention Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia
www.fanexpovancouver.com

Middle Tennessee Anime Convention
April 3-5
Sheraton Music City Hotel/
Nashville Airport Marriott
Nashville, TN
mtac.net

Sakura-Con
April 3-5
Washington State Convention
& Trade Center, Seattle, WA
www.sakuracon.org

T-MODE
April 3-5
Hilton Washington DC/
Rockville Hotel & Executive
Meeting Ctr
Rockville, MD
www.tmode.org

Taiga Con
April 3-5
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, GA
www.taigacon.com

WonderCon
April 3-5
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA
comic-con.org/wca

Yorkshire Cosplay Con
April 4
Magna Science Adventure Centre
Rotherham, UK
www.yorkshirecosplaycon.co.uk

Photo by L. Tuazon

Middle East Film and Comic Con
April 9-11
Dubai World Trade Center
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
www.mefcc.com

AmeChibi
April 10-12
Britannia Hotel Nottingham
Nottingham, UK
www.amecon.org.uk

MegaCon
April 10-12
Orange County Convention
Center, Orlando, FL
www.megaconvention.com

Midwest Media Expo
April 10-12, 201
Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance
Center, Detroit, MI
www.midwestmediaexpo.com/index.php

Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Melbourne
April 10-12
Melbourne Showgrounds
Melbourne, VIC Australia
www.supanova.com.au

AnniCon
April 11
Anniston City Meeting Center
Anniston, AL
www.annicon.com

Eastern Shore Fan Con
April 11
University of Maryland Eastern
Shore, Princess Anne, MD
www.easternshorefancon.com

Oz Comic-Con: Perth
April 11-12
Perth Convention and Exhibition
Centre, Perth, WA Australia
www.ozcomiccon.com

Tekko
April 16-19
David L. Lawrence Convention
Center, Pittsburgh, PA
www.teamtekko.us

Anime St. Louis
April 17-19
Gateway Center/DoubleTree
by Hilton Hotel Collinsville -
St. Louis, Collinsville, IL
www.animestl.net

CyPhaCon
April 17-19
Lake Charles Civic Center
Lake Charles, LA
www.cyphacon.org

Nadeshicon
April 17-19
Université Laval
Quebec City, Quebec
www.nadeshicon.ca/en/

Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Gold Coast
April 17-19
Gold Coast Convention and
Exhibition Centre
Broadbeach, QLD Australia
www.supanova.com.au

ASAHiCon
April 18
Antioch High School
Antioch, CA
www.asahicon.org

Photo by L. Tuazon

Big Wow! ComicFest
April 18-19, 201
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose, CA
www.bigwowcomicfest.com/

Midorifest
April 18-19
Shawnee Lodge & Conference Center
West Portsmouth, OH
www.midoricon.com/midorifest/

NashiCon
April 18-19
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
Columbia, SC
www.nashicon.com

Oz Comic-Con: Adelaide
April 18-19
Adelaide Showgrounds
Adelaide, SA Australia
www.ozcomiccon.com

Tora-Con
April 18-19
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
www.rit.edu/clubs/toracon/

Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo
April 24-26
The Floor, Chicago, IL
www.c2e2.com/

CONgregation
April 24-26
Comfort Inn & Suites
Omaha, NE
www.congregation-con.com

Florida Anime Experience
April 24-26
Park Inn by Radisson Orlando - Celebration, Kissimmee, FL
www.floridaanime.com

No Brand Con
April 24-26
Plaza Hotel and Suites
Eau Claire, WI
www.nobrandcon.org/p/

Sabaku Con
April 24-26
Crowne Plaza Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM
www.sabakucon.com

Tanoshiicon
April 25
West Chester University, Sykes Student Union
West Chester, PA
www.tanoshiicon.org

Shikacon
April 25-26
Holiday Inn Bristol, Bristol, VA
www.shikacon.com

Spring Kraken Con
April 25-26
Oakland Convention Center
Oakland, CA
www.krakencon.com

Sukoshi Con: Destination Anime
May 1-3
Bay Point Wyndham Golf Resort & Spa, Panama City Beach, FL
www.sukoshicon.com/destination_news.html

AniMinneapolis
May 8-10
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN
www.animinneapolis.com

Sukoshi Con: Bowling Green
May 8-10
Holiday Inn University Plaza - Bowling Green/ Sloan Convention Center
Bowling Green, KY
sukoshicon.com/bowlinggreen_news.html

Anime Central
May 15-17
Hyatt Regency O'Hare/ Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
www.acen.org

LouisiANIME
May 15-17
Ramada Lafayette Conference Center
Lafayette, LA
www.louisianime.com

Nauticon
May 15-17
Provincetown Inn
Provincetown, MA
www.nauticons.com

Otafest
May 15-17
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
www.otafest.com

EMCon - Anime and Gaming Convention
May 16-17
East Meadow Public Library
East Meadow, NY
www.emconanimefest.com

Animazement
May 22-24
Raleigh Convention Center
Raleigh, NC
www.animazement.org

Anime North
May 22-24
Toronto Congress Center
Toronto, Ontario
www.animenorth.com/live/

Photo by L. Tuazon

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CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

MobiCon
May 22-24
Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL
www.mobicon.org

Omni Expo
May 22-24
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL
www.omniexpo.com

Anime Oasis
May 22-25
Grove Hotel, Boise, ID
www.animeoasis.org

FanimeCon
May 22-25
San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, CA
www.fanime.com

JABEcon!
May 23
Cumberland University, Learning Commons, Lebanon, TN
www.jabecon.com

DoKomi
May 23-24
Congress Center Düsseldorf
Düsseldorf, Germany
www.dokomi.de/en/

MomoCon
May 28-31
Georgia World Congress Center and Omni Hotel, Atlanta, GA
www.momocon.com

Phoenix Comicon
May 28-31
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ
www.phoenixcomicon.com

Fan Expo Dallas
May 29-31
Dallas Convention Center
Dallas, TX
www.fanexpodallas.com

Northwest Fan Fest
May 29-31
Anvil Centre, New Westminster, British Columbia
www.northwestfanfest.com

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Colossalcon
June 4-7
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center
Sandusky, OH
www.colossalcon.com

A-Kon
June 5-7
Hilton Anatole Dallas
Dallas, TX
www.a-kon.com

Arch Anime
June 5-7
Gateway Center
Collinsville, IL
www.archanime.com

Sukoshi Con: Anime Paradise
June 5-7
Inverrary Vacation Resort
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
www.sukoshicon.com/anime_paradise_news.html

Metrocon
June 11-14
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL
www.metroconventions.com

Anime 2015
June 12-14
World Forum
The Hague, Netherlands
www.animecon.nl

AnimeNEXT
June 12-14
Garden State Exhibit Center
Somerset, NJ
www.animenext.org

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OMG!con
June 12-14
Owensboro Convention Center
Owensboro, KY
www.omgcon.com

Sausomecon
June 12-14
Holiday Inn Kansas City - SE and CoCo Key Water Resort
Kansas City, MO
www.sausomecon.com

LA Cosplay Con
June 13
Hyatt Regency Century Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
www.lacosplaycon.com

Nishikaze
June 13
University of Lethbridge,
Anderson Hall
Lethbridge, Alberta
www.nishikaze.ca

Saskatoon Blitz!
June 13-14
Prairieland Park
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
www.saskblitz.com

BotCon
June 18-21
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, IL
www.botcon.com/BotCon2015/

Anime Mid-Atlantic
June 19-21
Chesapeake Conference Center
Chesapeake, VA
www.animemidatlantic.com/index.html

SoDak Anime Convention
June 19-21
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD
www.sdcon.org

Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Sydney
June 19-21
Sydney Olympic Park
Sydney, NSW Australia
www.supanova.com.au

Tosho-con
June 20
East Orange Public Library
East Orange, NJ
NA

Wie.MAI.KAI
June 20-21
Bürgerhaus Kastel
Wiesbaden, Germany
www.wiemaikai.de

PortConMaine
June 25-28
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Portland,
South Portland, ME
www.portconmaine.com/web/

Animaritime
June 26-28
Fredericton Convention Centre
Fredericton, New Brunswick
www.animaritime.org

Daisuki Con
June 26-28
Chattanooga Marriott Downtown
Chattanooga, TN
www.daisukianimecon.com

HamaCon
June 26-28
Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL
www.hama-con.com

ShinkouCon
June 26-28
Meadowlands Exposition
Center/Holiday Inn Secaucus
Meadowlands, Secaucus, NJ
www.shinkoucon.com

SunnyCon
June 26-28
Pullman Lodge Hotel,
Bar & Function Suite
Sunderland, UK
www.sunnycon.co.uk

Anime Expo
July 2-5
Los Angeles Convention
Center, Los Angeles, CA
www.anime-expo.org

Anime Midwest
July 3-5
Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Rosemont, IL
www.animemidwest.com

Emiko's Mini Convention
July 3-5
Crowne Plaza Hotel &
Conference Centre
Kitchener, Ontario
www.go2emc.ca/EMCminiExtravaganza/

Sukoshi Con: Louisvile Anime Weekend
July 3-5
Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
Expo Center, Louisville, KY
www.sukoshicon.com/law_news.html

ConnectiCon
July 9-12
Connecticut Convention Center
Hanford, CT
www.connecticon.org

San Diego ComicCon
July 9-12
San Diego Convention Center
San Deigo, CA
comic-con.org

Anime Blues Con
July 10-12
Memphis Cook Convention
Center, Memphis, TN
www.animeblues.com

Anime Festival Wichita
July 10-12
Hyatt Regency Wichita
Wichita, KS
www.afwcon.org

ConGregate
July 10-12, 2015
High Point Plaza Hotel
Winston-Salem, NC
www.con-gregate.com

Ikasucon
July 10-12
Grand Wayne Convention
Center, Fort Wayne, IN
www.ikasucon.org

Ryu-Kon
July 10-12
Buffalo Niagara Convention
Center, Buffalo, NY
www.ryu-kon.com

XP Fest
June 12-14
Hilton Hartford, Hartford, CT
www.xpfest.com

APRIL 3-5, 2015

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- Cosplay, dances, guests, & artists are only a sliver of what's available at Sakura-Con

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US Finalists

Meet the Teams

By Greg J. Hansen

The road to Japan in 2015 has been a long one, but the journey's not over yet! We asked the chosen finalists competing to be World Cosplay Summit's Team USA about their goals, and about what it's meant to them to participate.

Midwest Preliminaries and the National Finals take place at the Midwest Media Expo, April 10-12, in Detroit, MI, so we hope you'll be there, either in person or watching online, to cheer on your favorite teams!

Photo by Somatics Studio Cosplay

Team Slim-Zeus — California

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

We entered World Cosplay Summit because we believe we represent what American cosplay is all about. We want to show how hard we work, our meticulousness, innovation and ability to execute on the big stage. We want to represent the United States and bring that world title home!

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

World Cosplay Summit is the grandest stage for cosplay. It's a chance to compete with the best this world has to offer. Under the costume of every competitor is someone who has journeyed, endured and committed themselves to greatness. WCS is important to us because it instills the values of dedication, a can-do attitude and aspiration to push ourselves to the next level. These traits are invaluable in and out of cosplay. We want to strengthen ourselves in those traits and also inspire everyone to do the same!

Kiss Kiss Cosplay — New York

Team Magpie — Nevada

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

We feel that our combined skill sets and experiences make a one-of-a-kind team. Team Magpie is made up of one veteran cosplayer (Heather, who has been cosplaying since 2001) and one who is fairly new to the scene (Brian, who has been cosplaying since 2012). With the combination of Heather's detailed sewing work and Brian's fresh outlook, electronics and programming skills, we hope to bring a truly unique performance to WCS!

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

We like doing cosplay competitions, and this is the most competitive of them all! Looking at our fellow finalists, we have been so impressed by them all and are honored and humbled to be in the running with them. We get to meet these amazing fellow cosplayers who care just as much as we do about creating beautiful costumes and memorable skits and that means a lot to us. That's why the opportunity to be Team USA means so much. It's not just a trip to Japan. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience to meet people from all over the world who are passionate about the same things we love!

Photo by S²

Colony Drop Cosplay — Texas

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

We wanted to push our cosplay to the limits, and WCS is the best place to challenge our talents. We also wanted to meet other awesome and talented cosplayers.

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

Entering WCS has been a dream come true. The traveling and the conventions have been wonderful. Each place is so beautiful and so unique. We can't wait to see what's next on this amazing journey.

Photo by Senia Vera Photography

Team Lauderdale & Mezbee — Washington

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

We wanted to challenge ourselves and join a competition! We wanted to test our abilities as cosplayers and push the limits!

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

It's important to us because it's an amazing opportunity, and it's also a lot of fun! We think that the possibility of being Team USA is also a dream we want to achieve!

Elemental Moon Cosplay — West Virginia

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

Cosplay and sewing has always been a part of our lives in some shape or form. It is something that strengthens our friendship more and more as the years go on. We knew this competition would give us the chance to share our passion for sewing, but also our love of theater. It also gives us the chance to meet other teams that share our interests.

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

We both live in West Virginia. In this area, the concept of cosplay is still rather new and not well understood, even though there is an annual convention that has taken place in downtown Huntington for the past 11 years. We hope that, through WCS, we can demonstrate to our area what cosplay is about and how you can build so many friendships through this wonderful event!

Something Clever Cosplay – Texas

◊ **Why did we enter WCS?**

We entered WCS because we wanted to challenge ourselves and compete with the amazingly talented cosplayers that we see every year entering the show. It looked like an amazing experience and we wanted to not only participate but also be able inspire others the way WCS has inspired us.

◊ **Why is WCS important to us?**

WCS is important to us because it is an incredible and unique lifetime experience that provides the opportunity to meet and share ideas with cosplayers from the world.

Photo by L.A.C. Photography

Ennui Killed The Cosplay – Colorado

◊ Why did we enter WCS?

This is Shiki's 2nd WCS prelim, though she helped out at two previous prelims. Chessy is a pretty new cosplayer, but her main local convention hosts a WCS prelim so she'd been trying to participate for a while.

Cosplay itself has become so huge since we first started attending conventions (2002 for Shiki!) and WCS is an incredible opportunity to stretch our borders even farther. In the US, we tend to focus on craftsmanship or performance for competitions as individual factors, but WCS really forces you to consider the showmanship aspect in relation to the costumes. How do we bring our passion for this game and characters to a wide, international audience while maintaining top notch craftsmanship? It's a huge challenge!

That said, on a practical level, we also enter to convince ourselves that spending 300 hours beading a costume is a completely sane use of time. Not sure if I succeeded, there.

◊ Why is WCS important to us?

I think WCS is the only competition where "I'm gonna need 2000 more rhinestones" and "I wonder if I can do a back-flip in this" can fall under the same breath. Thinking about so many elements has been stressful, but I'm so proud of all the work we've been able to do together. And really, it's raw motivation. The idea of representing our country on an international stage for our chosen hobby drives us to push our limits.

And I think, for both of us, it's been amazing connecting with all the other teams. It's like throwing eight teams of masquerade Best in Shows into one contest and it's incredible to watch and be a part of. Not only that, we've stayed in touch with many of the other teams from our prelim. WCS brings together like-minded and similarly motivated cosplayers, so it's been a great opportunity for making connections.

WCS National Staff

Laura Butler United States Organizer
Tiffany Tezna United States Assistant Organizer

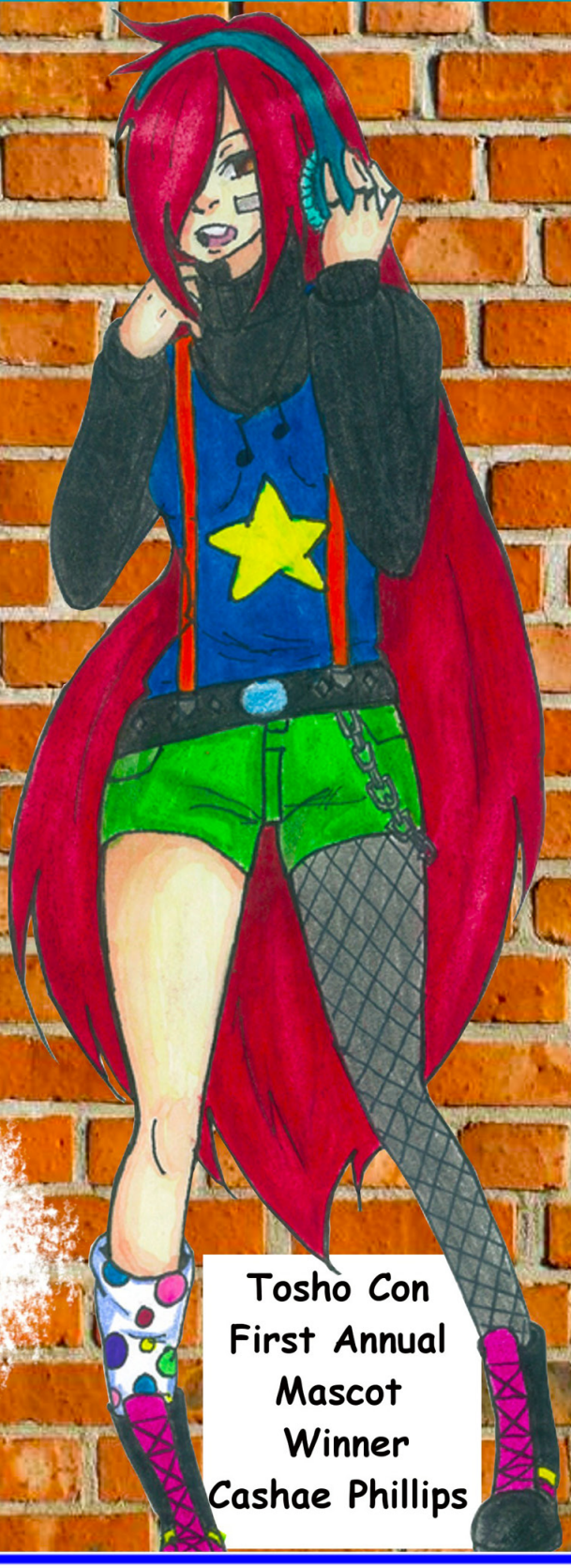
Allyson Rochlin • Eve Flores • Samantha Laabs
Eli Hinson • Dustin Young • Cassandra May • Mario Bueno

Greg J. Hansen Writing Staff

Website: www.WCSUS.com • General Email: info@wcsus.com
Twitter: @WCSPrelimsUS • Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcsprelimsus

Saturday, June 20, 2015

EOPL TOSHO CON



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Sword Soul

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Voice Actress

Lady Artecalis
Cosplayer

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Monster in My Closet
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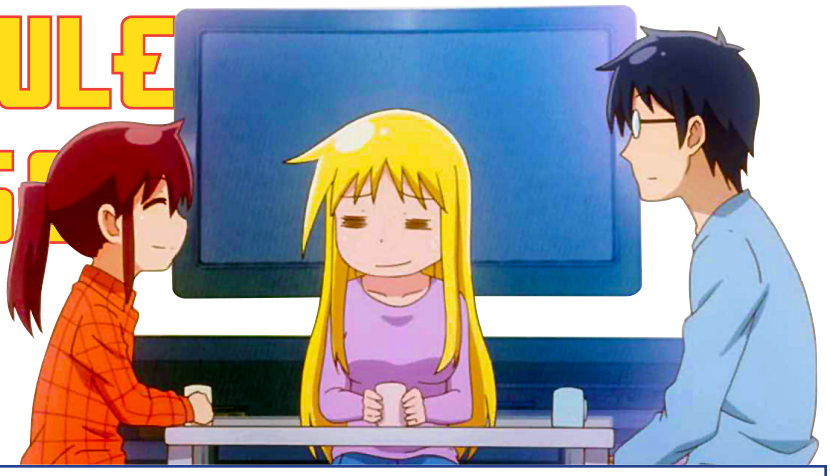
http://www.sonymusic.co.jp/Music/Info/scandal/worldtour2015/

ANIME SCHEDULE
2015 SPRING SE



Battle Spirits: Burning Soul
バトルスピリッツ烈火魂〈バーニングソウル〉

Sunrise ✦ April 1 ✦ TV Tokyo
www.sunrise-inc.co.jp/battlespirits7/index.html
youtu.be/KwWYTqlZVo0
Anime based on the card game from Bandai. In the near future, a battle card game known as *Battle Spirits* had gained popularity, and sparked a major movement. The Butler had waged a war in various locations called Battle Spirits Warring States Period.

Rē-Kan!
レーカン！

Pierrot Plus ✦ April 2 ✦ TBS
www.tbs.co.jp/anime/re-kan/
www.dailymotion.com/video/x2djvfb_re-kan-pv_news
Story about a girl named Amami Hibiki who can see and communicate with the supernatural and talk to animals.

Danna ga Nani wo Itteiru ka Wakaranai Ken 2 Sure-me
(I Can't Understand What My Husband Is Saying 2nd Season)
旦那が何を言っているかわからない件 2スレ目

Seven ✦ April 3 ✦ TVK
www.dreamcreation.co.jp/danna/
The daily life of an earnest, hardworking office lady named Kaoru and her otaku husband, who is totally immersed in a certain huge net bulletin board system. Second season.

Mahō Shōjo Lyrical Nanoha ViVid
(Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha ViVid)
魔法少女リリカルなのはViVid

A-1 Pictures ✦ April 3 ✦ Various
nanoha-vivid.tv
youtu.be/d3bR11rfFw4
Set four years after StrikerS, Nanoha finally has time to get off her feet, now explore the Nanoha world in Vivio Takamichi's shoes and her device, Sacred Heart. Then a mysterious magical fighter appears and targets Vivio.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

ANIME SCHEDULE 2015 SPRING

Vampire Holmes
ヴァンパイア ホームズ

CUCURI ✦ April 3 ✦ TV Kanagawa
www.cucuri.co.jp/holmes.html
The adaptation of the smartphone game that features a character named Holmes in London. But against his name, he is a private detective who doesn't reason nor even explain mysteries. However, he always solves the cases requested and secretly undertakes a mission from the Metropolitan Police of London to search vampires.

Yahari Ore no Seishun Love Comedy wa Machigatteiru. Zoku (My Teen Romantic Comedy SNAFU Sequel)
やはり俺の青春ラブコメはまちがっている。続

Feel ✦ April 3 ✦ TBS
www.tbs.co.jp/anime/oregairu/
This romantic comedy revolves around an antisocial high school student named Hikigaya Hachiman with a distorted view on life and no friends or girlfriends. A teacher gets Hachiman to join the volunteer service club, which happens to have the school's prettiest girl, Yukinoshita Yukino. Second season of "Hamachi."

Denpa Kyōshi (Electromagnetic-wave Teacher)
電波教師

A-1 Pictures ✦ April 4 ✦ NNS
www.ytv.co.jp/denpa/
Jun'ichirō is a 24-year old otaku who published papers in the journals Nature and Science when he was only 17. After graduating college, he became a NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) absorbed in his anime blog. Unable to watch him throw away his life, his sister Suzune gets him to work the high school where she attends. The head of the school's board, Koyomi Hiiragi assigns Kagami to his new life as a high school teacher.

Dungeon ni Deai wo Motomeru no wa Machigatteiru no Darō ka? (Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?)
ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか?

J.C.Staff ✦ April 4 ✦ Tokyo MX
danmachi.com/ ✦ youtu.be/wxhpfkyg7_c
In the town of labyrinths, Orario (also called Dungeon), Vel Clanel is a newbie adventurer. On one adventure, he is attacked by a minotaur. Close to dying, he is saved by a female adventurer, Eyes Warenstein. It was love at first sight and begins to train to be on par with her. He later encounters Hestia, a god called a "Lolita god" due to her stature who falls in love with him.

Kyōkai no Rinne (Circle of Reincarnation)
境界のRINNE

Brains Base ✦ April 4 ✦ NHK-E
anime-rinne.com/ ✦ youtu.be/8CYHjxK8Fvs
As a child Sakura Mamiya mysteriously disappeared in the woods behind her grandma's home. She returned whole and healthy, but since then she has had the power to see ghosts. Now a teenager, she just wishes the ghosts would leave her alone! At school, the desk next to Sakura's has been empty since the start of the school year. Then one day her always-absent classmate Rinne Rokudo shows up and he's far more than what he seems!

SEASO

Rias Gremory —
High School DxD BorN

Gunslinger Stratos: The Animation

ガンスリンガー ストラトス -THE ANIMATION-

A-1 Pictures • April 4 • Tokyo MX
www.guns-project.jp/ • youtu.be/ts2kBcPcMww
In 2115, the country known formerly as Japan has been split into two parallel worlds: the Frontier S and the 17th Far East Imperial City Management District. A group of gunslingers, each from the two universes who participate in Operation Stratos, will be sent in the year 2015 to alter the past by eliminating the other side until only one group survives, erasing a parallel universe in the process.

High School DxD BorN

ハイスクールD×D BorN

TNK • April 4 • AT-X
www.haremking.tv/
youtu.be/A9aLA0j1ZPM
The story centers on Issei Hyōdō, a perverted high school student who is killed by his first date who is revealed to be a fallen angel. He is soon revived as a devil by Rias Gremory to serve her and her devil family. Third season.

Nagato Yuki-chan no Shōshitsu (The Disappearance of Nagato Yuki-chan)

長門有希ちゃんの消失

Satelight • April 4 • Tokyo MX
haruhi.tv/yuki_chan/main.html
Nagato Yuki, the shy president of the literature club, has never been very sure of herself around other people. But around Kyon, the only boy in the tiny, three-person club, Yuki finds herself faltering even more than usual. For Kyon and for her precious club, Yuki must find her confidence and let her true personality shine!

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

ANIME SCHEDULE 2015 SPRING

Owari no Seraph
(Seraph of the End)
終わりのセラフ

Wit Studio • April 4 • Tokyo MX
owarino-seraph.jp/ • youtu.be/NtzDAmRhD9s
A mysterious virus appeared on Earth, killing every human over 13 years old. At the same time, vampires emerged from the world's dark recesses and enslaved mankind. Yūichirō Hyakuya, a young boy with the rest of the children from his orphanage, are treated as livestock. Even in captivity, Yūichirō dreams big. He dreams of killing vampires…killing them all.

PriPara 2 (Prism Paradise)
プリパラ 2

Tatsunoko • April 4 • TNX
pripara.jp
The new anime based on the theme of Pretty Rhythm series is set in the Puri-Para world, filled with girls' dreams, fashion, dance and music. There are auditions that send top idols to worldwide fame on television and online. Laala and her friends are all fascinated with this world. However, Laala's school prohibits Puri-Para for elementary school children. An unexpected chance leads Laala to make her first entrance into the world of Puri-Para, where she just might make her debut.

Natsuki Shinomiya, Otoya Ittoki, Masato Hijirikawa, Tokiya Ichinose, Ren Jingūji & Syo Kurusu — Uta no Prince-sama

SEASON *Continued*

Shokugeki no Sōma (Food Wars!)
食戟のソーマ

J.C.Staff • April 4 • MBS
shokugekinosoma.com/ • youtu.be/Qe2eXAFUXqE
Sōma Yukihira's dream is to become a full-time chef in his father's restaurant and surpass his father's culinary skill. But just as Yukihira graduates from middle school, his father, Jōichirō Yukihira closes down the restaurant to cook in Europe. Although downtrodden, Sōma's fighting spirit is rekindled by a challenge from Jōichirō which is to survive in an elite culinary school where only 10% of the students graduate. Can Sōma survive?

Uta no☆Prince-sama♪: Maji Love Revolutions (Princes of Song: Magic Love Revolutions)
うたの☆プリンスさまっ♪マジLOVEレボリューションス

A-1 Pictures • April 4 • Tokyo MX
utapri.tv/
Based on a bishōnen visual novel game by Broccoli, originally released for the PSP in 2010. In this slapstick romantic comedy, a girl goes to a school for the performing arts with boys who are budding idols and share one purpose: to sign with a production company and make their debut. Third anime adaptation of the otome game *Uta no Prince-sama*.

Plastic Memories
プラスチィック・メモリーズ

Dogakobo • April 5 • Tokyo MX
www.plastic-memories.jp • youtu.be/Lfv9Pgs12ig
The android production company SA Corp. produced Giftia, a new kind of android is the most human-like out of any other model. Due to problems in technology, androids have a service life and once they pass that, they…well, it gets pretty bad. For this reason, SA Corp. creates a terminal service in order to retrieve Giftia that have gone past their service life. A new employee at the terminal service named Tsukasa Mizugaki forms a team with the Giftia Isla to retrieve the other androids.

Kekkai Sensen (Blood Blockade Battlefront)
血界戦線

Bones • April 5 • Tokyo MX
kekkaisensen.com/
youtu.be/jDyMuduEJ2E
A breach between Earth and the netherworlds has opened up over the city of New York, trapping New Yorkers and creatures from other dimensions in an impenetrable bubble. They've lived together for years, in a world of crazy crime sci-fi sensibilities. Now someone is threatening to sever the bubble and a group of stylish superhumans is working to keep it from happening.

Arslan Senki (The Heroic Legend of Arslan)
アルスラーン戦記

LIDEN FILMS & Sanzigen • April 5 • MBS/TBS
www.arslan.jp • youtu.be/d_QqY9_ybws
In the prosperous kingdom of Pars lies the Royal Capital of Ecbatana, a city of splendor and wonder, ruled by the undefeated and fearsome King Andragoras. Arslan is the young and curious prince of Pars. At the age of 14, he goes to his first battle and loses everything, bringing him to face the demise of his once glorious kingdom. It is Arslan's destiny to be a ruler and despite the trials that face him, he must now embark on a journey to reclaim his fallen kingdom.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

ANIME SCHEDULE 2015 SPRING

Baby Steps 2
ベイビーステップ

Studio Pierrot ✦ April 5 ✦ NHK-E
www3.nhk.or.jp/anime/babysteps/
Maruo Eiichirō one day decides he is unhappy with the way things are and lacks exercise. He finds a flier for the Tennis Club and check it out. With no prior experience and physical conditioning, he embarks on a tennis journey using his smarts, dedication and work ethic. He uses his inherent studious nature to develop an extremely strategic approach to tennis, taking notes on the habits and tendencies of his opponents thus allowing him to predict their shots before they make them. Second season.

Show By Rock!!
ショウ・バイ・ロック

Bones ✦ April 5 ✦ Tokyo MX
showbyrock-anime.com/
Metropolis of music, MIDICITY. A kitty girl wearing gothic lolita clothing named Cyan is scouted by Maple Arisugawa, the president of a music agency. From there, she meets three other girls. Together, they form the band named Plasmagica, and aim for the top of the world. However, the path there is long and tough, and keeping in high spirits is important. By battling against other strange bands, Plasmagica slowly grows toward a top-grade band.

Ameiro Cocoa (Rainy Cocoa)
雨色ココア

IAM DenshiShuppan ✦ April 5 ✦ Tokyo MX
www.rainycocoa.jp/anime/
youtu.be/A0da1VIZp4w
Aoi Tokura was having a very unfortunate day. He was even called *ugly* by a stranger on the train. While walking down the street on this rainy day, he stood by a small, but cozy cafe named Rainy Color where he is to start working. As he enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate he was served, a guy came into Rainy Color…it was Kei'ichi Iwase, the one who told Aoi was ugly!!??

Kōkaku Kidōtai Arise: Alternative Architecture (Ghost in a Shell Arise: Alternative Architecture)
攻殻機動隊ARISE ALTERNATIVE ARCHITECTURE

Production I.G ✦ April 5 ✦ Tokyo MX
kokaku-a.jp/tv/ ✦ youtu.be/O8Ma8duhSWI
The series takes place in the year 2027, where many people in developed countries have become cyborgs with prosthetic bodies. Primarily set in the fictional Japanese Newport City, the series follows a younger Motoko Kusanagi before the formation of Public Security Section 9.

Fate/Stay Night: Unlimited Blade Works 2nd Season
フェイト/ステイナイト Unlimited Blade Works 2ndシーズン

ufotable ✦ April 5 ✦ Tokyo MX
www.fate-sn.com/ubw/
About an amateur mechanic, Shirō Emiya, who attends a school named Homurahara Gakuen in Fuyuki City, Japan. The story primarily takes place at and around Shirō Emiya's house, which acts as their base location in the Holy Grail War. Outside of Shirō's house, frequented locations include the Homurahara Gakuen high school and the Ryūdōji Temple. Second series of the new *Fate/Stay Night* adaptation.

SEASON *Continued*

Logicoma & Major Motoko Kusanagi (new body) — Kōkaku Kidōtai ARISE

Hello!! Kin'iro Mosaic (Hello!! Golden Mosaic)

ハロー！！きんいろモザイク

Studio Gokumi ✦ April 6 ✦ Tokyo MX
www.kinmosa.com/
youtu.be/G5-7dzZ8fRo
Shinobu Ōmiya is a young girl who once stayed in England, where she met Alice Cartalet, enjoying the time spent with her. One day, Shinobu receives a letter from Alice saying she is coming to Japan, and surely enough she appears and joins her at her school. Second season of *Kin'iro Mosaic*.

Kaitō Joker 2 (Mysterious Joker 2)

怪盗ジョーカー2

Shin-Ei Animation ✦ April 6 ✦ Tokyo MX
s.mxtv.jp/joker/#
There are no items that can not be stolen by Joker, The Mysterious Thief. With his magic tricks, Joker goes around the world, stealing treasure! Special agents to the most sophisticated equipment have been deployed to subdue him. Is there anything can stop the exploits of The Mysterious Thief? Second season.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

ANIME SCHEDULE 2015 SPRING

Takamiya Nasuno Desu!
高宮なすのです！

Dax Production ✦ April 6 ✦ Tokyo MX
www.te-kyu.com/nasuno/
Spinoff of Tēkyū. Centers on the daily life of Nasuno Takamiya, the *exceedingly airheaded* school tennis club member in Tēkyū and her friends.

Tēkyū 4
てーきゅう4

Mappa ✦ April 6 ✦ Tokyo MX
te-kyu.com/
The TV anime series Tēkyū! is based on Roots and Piyo's gag comedy manga about a girls' tennis team. Fourth season.

Mikagura Gakuen Kumikyoku (Mikagura School Suite)
ミカグラ学園組曲

Dogakobo ✦ April 7 ✦ AT-X
mikagura-gakuen.com
youtu.be/v-x_y1N2nDo
Eruna Ichinomiya enters the Mikagura Academy dreaming of a boarding school life filled with beauty. She finds out that in the culture clubs, there is a rule that battles that are fought with special powers decide a club representative's treatment. Through various circumstances, Eruna becomes a representative of a club and is thrown into the fray.

Gintama` (2015)
銀魂

Sunrise ✦ April 8 ✦ TV Tokyo
www.sunrise-inc.co.jp/gintama/
Continuation of the Gintama seers. The samurai don't stand a chance. First, the aliens invaded Japan. Next, they took all the jobs. And then they confiscated everyone's swords. So what does a hot-headed former samurai like Sakata "Gin" Gintaki do to make ends meet? Take any odd job that comes his way, even if it means losing his dignity.

Hibike! Euphonium Kitauji Kōkō Suisōgaku-bu e Yōkoso (Sound! Euphonium Welcome to Kitauji High School's Musical Instrument Club)
響け! ユーフォニアム　北宇治高校吹奏楽部へようこそ

Kyoto Animation ✦ April 8 ✦ Tokyo MX
anime-eupho.com/ ✦ youtu.be/mmG8gve8qKc
The Kitauji high school wind instrument club had at one time participated in national tournaments and was a champion school, but after the club's adviser changed, they have not been able to even participate in the qualifying tournament. Under the strict leadership of Taki, a substitute for Ms. Rikako, they steadily build up their strength.

Mikoto Kiba & Sayo Hitsugi — Triage X

Ore Monogatari!! (My Love Story!!)

俺物語!!

Madhouse ✦ April 8 ✦ NTV
www.anime-ore.jp/
youtu.be/s4POV05JyBU
Takeo Gōda is a giant guy with a giant heart. Too bad the girls don't want him! They want his good-looking best friend, Sunakawa. Used to being on the sidelines, Takeo simply stands tall and accepts his fate. But one day when he saves a girl named Yamato from a harasser on the train, his life suddenly takes an incredible turn!

Triage X

トリアージX

Xebec ✦ April 8 ✦ Tokyo MX
triagex-anime.jp/
youtu.be/bB0XFfJUFRk
Mochizuki General Hospital boasts some of the most well-trained (and well-endowed) nurses in town. Arashi is the newest member of a secret squad of assassins apparently working for a hospital. The group follows the head doctor s triage to eliminate those who need to be excised.

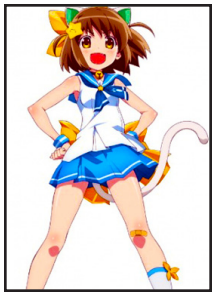
Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

ANIME SCHEDULE 2015 SPRING

Hōkago no Pleiades (Wish Upon the Pleiades)

放課後のプレアデス

Gainax • April 9 • ABC-TV
sbr-gx.jp/
Subaru is a young girl who discovers that her best friend Aoi is part of magical group trying to gather engine fragments so that a little being from Pleiades can return to his home. Subaru considers joining them as she was chosen by the Pleiadian, president of this afterschool club.



Etotama: Eto Tamashii

えとたま: 干支魂

Shirogumi • April 9 • Tokyo MX
etotama.com
youtu.be/C3RtteSP0uE
Nya-tan, a cat of Chinese astrology, wants to become a member of the Chinese zodiac. Nya-tan is simple and suffers from memory loss and tries various foolish ways to become a member. She meets Takeru Tendo, a high school student who lives alone in Akihabara and becomes a freeloader at his house.

Punchline

パンチライン

Mappa • April 9 • Fiji TV
www.punchline.jp/
youtu.be/aXF-anpIAhQ
The series follows Yūta Iritatsu, whose spirit has been separated from his body.

Nisekoi 2 (False Love 2)

ニセコイ 2

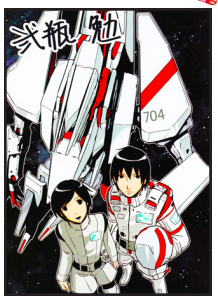
Shaft • April 10 • Tokyo MX
www.nisekoi.jp/
As a child, Raku Ichijō made a secret promise with his childhood sweetheart, keeping a pendant as a memento while his love took the key. He dreams of one day meeting his past love, but years later, reality smashes his hopes when Chitoge Kirisaki accidentally knees him in the face. Though Raku's a normal high schooler, his family heads the notorious yakuza…Shuei-Gumi! He's forced into a relationship with Chitoge, the daughter of a rival gang's boss! Kosaik's sister is introduced. Second season of *Nisekoi*.

Urawa no Usagi-chan

浦和の調ちゃん

A-Real • April 10 • TVS
urawa-usagi.com
An original anime to advertise Urawa City in Saitama, Japan. The project features eight anthropomorphic girls representing the stations in the prefecture which have "Urawa" with their names.

SEA



Sidonia no Kishi: Daikyū Wakusei Seneki (Knights of Sidonia: War of the Ninth Planet)

シドニアの騎士　第九惑星戦役

Polygon Pictures ✦ April 11 ✦ MBS
www.knightsofsidonia.com/ ✦ youtu.be/DiZJkYg4n1E
A thousand years after humans flee from Earth, which was destroyed by shapeshifting gigantic alien monsters called Gauna, massive spaceships were created from the remains of the planet. One of the ships is Sidonia, human culture developed closely based on that of Japan. The story follows the exploits of Nagate Tanikaze, who lived in the underground layer of Sidonia since birth and raised by his grandfather. Second season of *Sidonia no Kishi*.

Grisaia no Meikyū (Le Labyrinthe De La Grisaia)

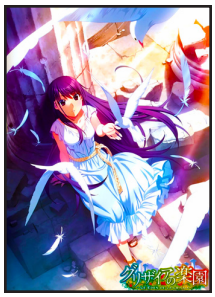
グリザイアの迷宮

8bit ✦ April 12 ✦ AT-X
www.grisaia-anime.com/ ✦ youtu.be/6Kr-UVVFy7g
Grisaia no Meikyū is the sequel to the Frontwing title *Grisaia No Kajitsu*. Declining to follow any ending, it instead follows a path not explored in the game in which Yūji solved everyone's problems, but does not appear to have romantically committed himself. The beginning of the story establishes that he is unexpectedly attempting to gain a promotion, a detail of little apparent importance given that it is mostly an excuse to examine Yūji's backstory.

Yamada-kun to 7-nin no Majo (Yamada-kun and the Seven Witches)

山田くんと7人の魔女

LIDEN FILMS ✦ April 12 ✦ Tokyo MX
www.yamajo-anime.com/
youtu.be/1_n_k5nNA3A
Yamada, the high school's worst problem child, bumps into the beautiful honor student Shiraishi on the stairs. Their lips touch as they fall. When they regained their senses, they realize that they have swapped bodies. As time progresses, the two realize that this is not the only mysterious happening in the school.



Grisaia no Rakuen (Le Eden De La Grisaia)

グリザイアの楽園

8bit ✦ April 19 ✦ AT-X
www.grisaia-anime.com/ ✦ youtu.be/o7eq3Z_g3JE
Our story picks up immediately after the events of *Grisaia no Meikyū*, with Yūji Kazami having been detained for suspected involvement with an international terrorist organization, lead by Heath Oslo, that has managed to enter Japan's borders with a devastating new weapon of mass destruction in hand. Meanwhile, at Mihama Academy, the remaining students find themselves with time running out–due to financial issues, the school is set to close within the month.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

AKAME GA KILL
アカメが斬る!

Playing catch-up on something is never fun, unless the thing we are talking about just so happens to be an anime. I have finally watched *Akame ga Kill!*, the newest anime everyone saw fit to go completely bonkers over. However, is the anime as good as everyone says? Or was this simply another anime that was hyped up for shallow reasons while the core of it actually lacked substance?

What is this Anime About?

Tatsumi and his two friends (Sayo and Ieyasu) head towards the capital, their aim is to make enough money to keep their poverty stricken village from going poor. However, things take a turn for the worse as both of Tatsumi's friends are killed by the sadistic people that live there, learning him the harsh lesson that sometimes people can be more frightening than even A-ranked danger beasts.

Akame ga Kill!
アカメが斬る!
TV • July 6–Decemver 14, 2014
Square Enix • White Fox • Sentai Filmworks

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akame_ga_Kill!

akame.tv

www.sentaifilmworks.com

Director: Kobayashi, Tomoki
Writer: Uezu, Makoto
Music: Iwasaki, Taku

Cast:
Akame = Amamiya, Sora
Mine = Tamura, Yukari
Leone = Asakawa, Yū
Sheele = Noto, Mamiko
Lubbock = Matsuoka, Yoshitsugu

Not long after avenging his friends' murders, Tatsumi is persuaded to join Night Raid, a group that is part of the Revolutionary Army Resistance. He is now learning the ways of an assassin in

order to free the capital of its corrupted government core to ensure the fate that happened to his friends befalls no one else. Blood shed, tragedy and plot twists await!

Story & Plot Impressions

Plot twist inbound. *Akame ga Kill!* is pretty straight forward in telling about what the main character wants to do from episode one—to help out his poverty stricken village with the aid of both of his friends. A rather simple goal of joining the Capital Army is turned on its head by the end of episode one during a daring plot twist, opening up the true path of this series and revealing how corrupt the core of the country's monarchy is. You can say the main theme of the entire show is attempting to right the wrong-doings of the corrupt organization that controls the country through means of a coup d'etat.

The flow of this anime is actually not too bad, but there are times where things seem to progress a bit more slowly than they should. Episodes in general feel as if they serve some sort of purpose and are preparing us for something down the line that will be pivotal to the overall plot of the series. Do not get me wrong, I feel like some missions they undertake are merely for the sake of character development while not being intricate to the plot directly, but will come into place at a later date for dramatic effect whilst accelerating the events of the current story arc (such as Tatsumi's opening training missions with each of the individual members of Night Raid). The pacing is enough to keep you interested and the anticipation of what is going to come next help smooth over some of the rougher areas that will come to be appreciated later. With that being said, there are rough patches, primarily episodes that do not involve direct confrontation with our combatants (too much talking, not enough killing), which is the highlight of the whole show. As I said, it will be necessary for you to see that bond taking place for later.

The plot is pushed along by each side—The Capital and The Revolutionary Army—having its objectives and by utilizing high-level operatives (assassins who use Imperial Arms) to help see them through. These individuals and their goals seem to align enough with their respective sides' motives for them to continue along the path tasked of them, which is the most important piece of the entire development of the plot. However, it is bad that we are waiting to see what happens with the characters more than what will actually happen to the country itself, even during the final episodes of the anime. I would have actually liked to see the heads

of the Revolutionary Army resistance and more concern for what the country has become in order to feel like a rebellion was needed. I still feel, even having watched the entire show, that taking out some individuals and simply changing the King's perspective would have been enough to avoid a full frontal war and achieve the same goals.

In conclusion, the whole plot is very typical of what happens during a revolution. The people feel oppressed and want change, they form a force that stands up to the tyranny of the government in an attempt to establish a new order where everything is fair. A new government with the people's needs taking the forefront without ulterior motives is the ultimate goal of the resistance. This ideal is executed decently enough to get the gist, but it could have been a lot better. We often see the forces of The Capital without much in way of the Revolutionary Army until the near ending episodes of the series. On top of that, in earlier episodes, Night Raid also acted as a mercenary group that takes money from citizens in order to correct wrongs that have been done to them and to purge their upcoming new rule from tyrants when they should have been happy to do this without payment. I feel like most people were doing it for themselves in the end and not necessarily for the good of the people, making it feel as though the plot takes a back seat to the actual character development. So, while I understand what they were going for, they could have did so better.

Character Development & Impressions

This is one of the few anime that are unforgiving with its characters, the most recent in my memory being *Shingeki no Kyojin. Akame ga Kill!* does not hold back with the killing of any and everyone, so the best advice that I can give you is the one piece that was given to me, "Do not grow attached to anyone!" I mean it, you will never know who might have had their last episode as this series does not play favorites to anyone. With that being said, you will come to learn a lot about everyone—including the enemies—though you never really come to learn much about the main antagonist, which is probably why they are judged as a "true evil" villain.

Most characters within this series are merely fighting for their own cause They do not really have a side that is purely good or evil because that depends upon perspective. This

General Esdeath

anime series does a really good job of showcasing the human side to characters that can kill without a moment's notice by showing that they are only doing what they feel is right. Looking back at real life, countries participating in holy wars and even involvement of some countries conflicts deals with who we believe to be right or wrong. Obviously people who are participating on either belief are right and have a just cause. So what determines who is right or wrong? Who wins and claims the right to record history as its victor? I feel like we even have a character which completely embodies that—only the strong will live in the end.

The back stories they give out for each of the characters only enforce the fact that they are not entirely evil for what they do, but the act of actually committing murder shows that they are not completely innocent either. Most back stories are actually well done and show people from different walks of life fighting for the cause they think will aid others, but in the end, it is also merely for themselves. I guess it also shows a more authentic human side which is that, while we may do things for the benefit of others, we do things for our benefit first and foremost.

In the end, we know that there is an absolute evil and an absolute good in the way the characters are dictated; and this is why we are able to come to terms with how the anime actually ends. However, you do wonder if some of the deaths were necessary if the enemies of the obvious heroes knew what was going on being closed doors of their own cause... but I suppose we can attribute that to either side. One has to wonder if the oblivious nature of some individuals lead them to be fighting for or against their current objectives.

Miscellaneous

By my trying desperately to analyze the plot and the characters, I did not really tell you about a couple of things that I feel would fit better in a section away from those two. The two main things I want to focus on are the fights and the use of other genre elements to ease some of the tension found within this anime.

Fights are pretty good, while you have to ask yourself about how some enemies have guns in the era in which *Akame*

ga Kill takes place, you would also have to question other things about the universe (such as demons, enormous monsters, etc.). While some fights are a pure test of skill and are nail biters, some are done with trickery and scheming to make the best of a bad situation. Finally, some are done with incredibly outlandish weaponry and technique that you do not know what will happen next (the end of the anime especially). The main attraction of this series is actually the battles that occur between assassins—the fact that it is so good proves why everything else in the series can be seen in a better light.

Besides the incredibly good fights, *Akame ga Kill!* offers bits and pieces of other anime genres that are specifically used for comedic effect. While not used in a lot of instances, we see bits and pieces of a slice-of-life and ecchi comedy varieties. I guess the manga-ka, as well as the animators, realized that this anime can be a lot to take in. They offer us tidbits of laughter and humor to keep the series from feeling darker than it already is. I applaud them for this merely because it fits so well within the theme of the series—even setting up a recurring event for one of the main characters that turns into sadness later. Classic.

Final Verdict

Akame ga Kill! proved to be one of the most entertaining anime that I watched in 2014, you never know what was going to happen next and feared for every character that you have held dear. While I believe the ending of the anime suffered an unnecessary loss for dramatic effect, most other things were done in a fashion that kept fans on the edge of their seat.

I liked how—even done to the last horrible detail—we saw what happens when a rebellion happens. We got to see those of the revolutionary army rise up in arms against a tyrant government, while watching what happens when a monarchy tries to suppress a coup. We get to follow along the ride of a group that is directly affected by this struggle and put their lives on the line for a tomorrow they can believe in.

I recommend this anime if you can stand the gore, heart break, and ruthlessness this anime brings. Do not get attached to any character, any episode could wind up being their last...good or evil. Thanks for reading my review for *Akame ga Kill!* ❖ Rok the Reaper

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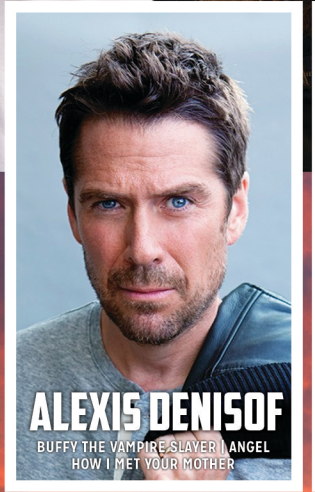
GAME OF THRONES | STARGATE: ATLANTIS
"AQUAMAN" - THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

DAVID MORRISSEY
THE WALKING DEAD | DOCTOR WHO



ALEXIS DENISOF
BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER | ANGEL
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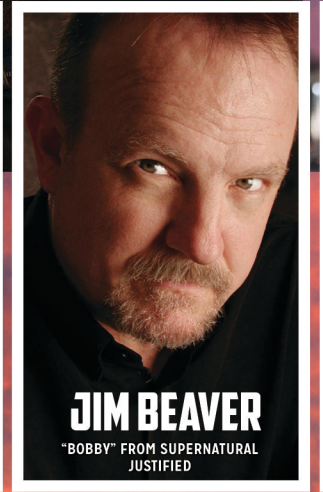
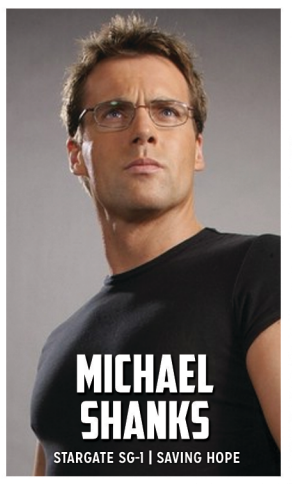
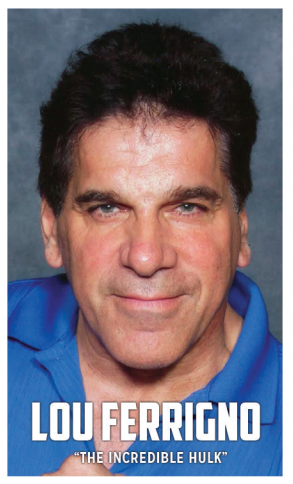


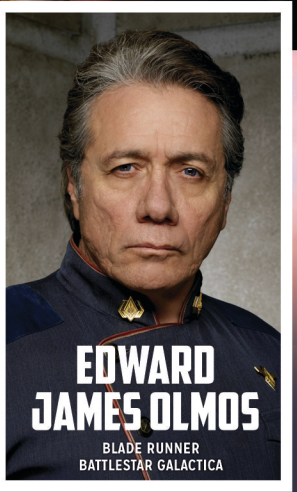
JIM BEAVER
"BOBBY" FROM SUPERNATURAL
JUSTIFIED



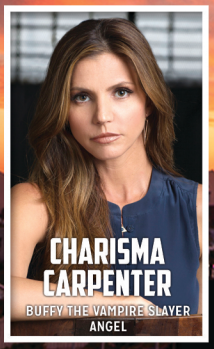
MICHAEL SHANKS
STARGATE SG-1 | SAVING HOPE



LOU FERRIGNO
"THE INCREDIBLE HULK"



EDWARD JAMES OLMOS
BLADE RUNNER
BATTLESTAR GALACTICA



CHARISMA CARPENTER
BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER
ANGEL

VERONICA TAYLOR
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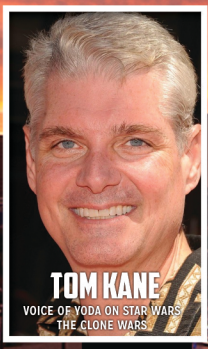
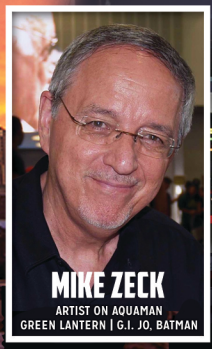


TOM KANE
VOICE OF YODA ON STAR WARS
THE CLONE WARS

ROGER L. JACKSON
VOICE OF GHOSTFACE
FROM "SCREAM"



MIKE ZECK
ARTIST ON AQUAMAN
GREEN LANTERN | G.I. JO, BATMAN

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Vic Mognogna, Chuck Huber, Chris Doohan, Kim Stinger, Michele Specht, Todd Haberkorn & Wyatt Lenhart

OTHER GUESTS INCLUDE: PIERCE BROWN, BETH CATO, STEPHEN BLACKMOORE, JASON M. HOUGH, MYKE COLE, GINI KOCH, KEVIN HEARNE, RYAN OTTLEY, DJANGO WEXLER, GREN VAN EEKHOUT, ALEX GORDON, VIOLA CARR, DELILAH S. DAWSON, ML BRENNAN, WESLEY CHU, VAN JENSEN, CHERIE PRIEST, BILLY TUCCI, WESTON OCHSE, YVONNE NAVARRO, SAM SYKES, BRIAN STAVELEY, MICHAEL MARTINEZ, SCOTT SIGLER, AND **SO MANY MORE YET TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

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Oh! great
Kodansha Comics
Mar 24

Alice in the Country of Joker: Nightmare Trilogy, Vol. 3
QuinRose, Yobu
Seven Seas Entertainment
Mar 24

Are You Alice?, Vol. 8
Ikumi Katagiri, Ai Ninomiya
Yen Press
Mar 24

Bloody Cross, Vol. 6
Shiwo Komeyama
Yen Press
Mar 24

Demon from Afar, Vol. 2
Kaori Yuki
Yen Press
Mar 24

Genshiken: Second Season, Vol. 6
Shimoku Kio
Kodansha Comics
Mar 24

He's My Only Vampire, Vol. 2
Aya Shōto
Yen Press
Mar 24

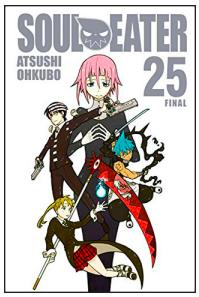
Karneval, Vol. 1
Tōya Mikanagi
Yen Press
Mar 24

Love at Fourteen, Vol. 2
Fuka Mizutani
Yen Press
Mar 24

New Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 4
Kazuo Koike, Hideki Mori
Dark Horse Manga
Mar 24

Puella Magi Oriko Magica: Extra Story
Magica Quartet, Kuroe Mura
Yen Press
Mar 24

Sankarea, Vol. 11
Mitsuru Hattori
Kodansha Comics
Mar 24



Soul Eater, Vol. 25
Atsushi Ōkubo
Yen Press
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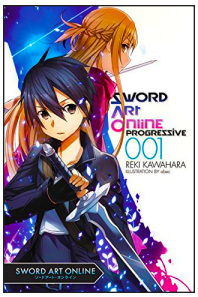

Sword Art Online Progressive, Vol. 1
Reki Kawahara
Yen On
Mar 24

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MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Yuki Nagato — The Disappearance of Nagato Yuki-chan

Sword Art Online: Fairy Dance, Vol. 3
Reki Kawahara, Tsubasa Haduki
Yen Press
Mar 24

The Angel of Elhamburg
Aki
Yen Press
Mar 24

The Devil is a Part-Timer, Vol. 1
Satoshi Wagahara, Akio Hiiragi
Yen Press
Mar 24

The Disappearance of Nagato Yuki-chan, Vol. 7
Nagaru Tanigawa, Puyo, Noizi Itō
Yen Press
Mar 24

Triage X, Vol. 9
Shōji Satō
Yen Press
Mar 24

UQ Holder, Vol. 4
Ken Akamatsu
Kodansha Comics
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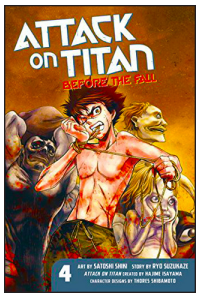

Attack on Titan: Before the Fall, Vol. 4
Hajime Isayama
Kodansha Comics
Mar 31

Fairy Tail, Vol. 47
Hiro Mashima
Kodansha Comics
Mar 31

Oh My Goddess!, Vol. 47
Kosuke Fujishima
Dark Horse Books
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Prophecy, Part 3
Tetsuya Tsutsui
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What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Vol. 7
Fumi Yoshinaga
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Wolfsmund, Vol. 6
Mitsuhisa Kuji
Vertical, Inc.
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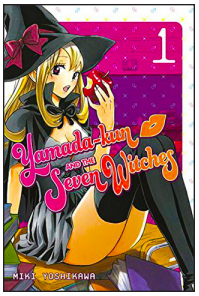

Yamada-kun and the Seven Witches, Vol. 1
Miki Yoshikawa
Kodansha Comics
Mar 31

Priapus†
Mentaiko Itto
Bruno Gmuender Gmbh
April 1

Ajin: Demi-Human, Vol. 4
Gamon Sakurai
Vertical, Inc.
April 7

Arpeggio of Blue Steel, Vol. 4
Ark Performance
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 7
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Assassination Classroom, Vol. 3
Yusei Matsui
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 7

Border, Vol. 4†
Kazuma Kodaka
Digital Manga Publishing
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Captain Ken, Vol. 1
Osamu Tezuka
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April 7

Citrus, Vol. 2
Saburōta
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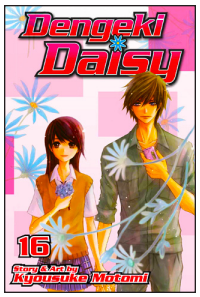

Dengeki Daisy, Vol. 16
Kyōsuke Motomi
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 7

Food Wars!, Vol. 5
Yuto Tsukuda, Shun SAEKI
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April 7

Girl Play††
Taniguchi-san
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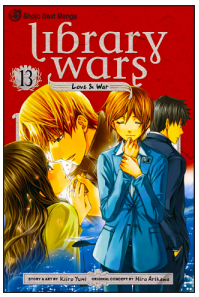
I've Seen It All, Vol. 3†
Shōko Takaku
Digital Manga Publishing
April 7



Library Wars: Love & War, Vol. 13
Hiro Arikawa, Yumi K<ii>ro
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April 7

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SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Meteor Prince, Vol. 2
Meca Tanaka
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Milliard: Slave Story††
Mizuho Nanase
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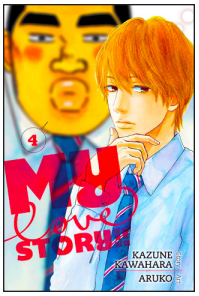

My Love Story!!, Vol. 4
Kazune Kawahara, Aruko
VIZ Media, LLC.
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One Piece, Vol. 74
Eiichirō Oda
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Princess Lucia, Vol. 1††
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Ring X Mama, Vol. 5††
Jōji Manabe
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Toriko, Vol. 27
Mitsutoshi Shimabukuro
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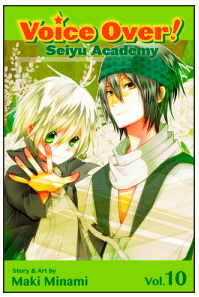

Voice Over!: Seiyu Academy, Vol. 10
Maki Minami
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World Trigger, Vol. 5
Daisuke Ashihara
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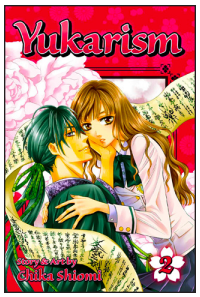

Yukarism, Vol. 2
Chika Shiomi
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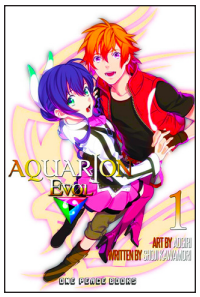
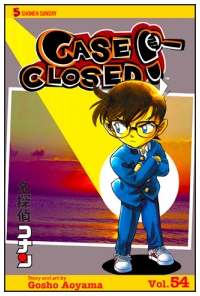
12 Beast, Vol. 1
OKAYADO
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 14



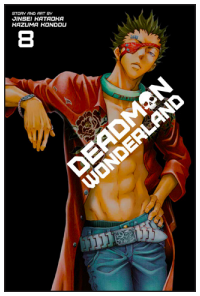
Aquarion Evol, Vol. 1
Shōji Kawamori, Aogiri
One Peace Books
April 14

Attack on Titan: Junior High, Vol. 3
Hajime Isayama
Kodansha Comics
April 14

Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 31
Hiroaki Samura
Dark Horse Manga
April 14



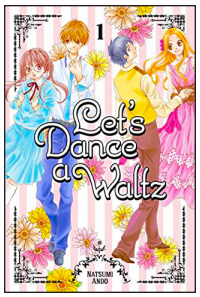
Case Closed, Vol. 54
Goshō Aoyama
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 14



Deadman Wonderland, Vol. 8
Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondō
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 14

Gakuen Polizi, Vol. 2
Milk Morinaga
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 14

Itsuwaribito, Vol. 14
Yūki Iinuma
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 14



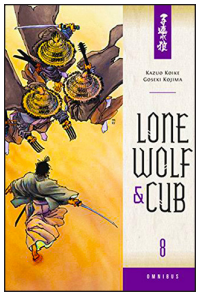
Let's Dance a Waltz, Vol. 1
Natsumi Andō
Kodansha Comics
April 14

Anotsu Kagehisa — Blade of the Immortal

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. Yaoi and hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

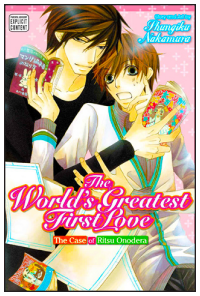
MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 Cont



Lone Wolf and Cub Omnibus, Vol. 8
Kazuo Koike, Gōseki Kojima
Dark Horse Manga
April 14

Magical Girl Apocalypse, Vol. 3
Kentaro Satō
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 14



The World's Greatest First Love, Vol. 1†
Shungiku Nakamura
SuBLime
April 14

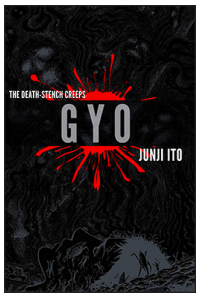
A Certain Scientific Railgun, Vol. 10
Kazuma Kamachi, Motoi Fuyukawa
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 21
Not Actual Cover

Akame ga KILL!, Vol. 2
Takahiro, Tetsuya Tashiro
Yen Press
April 21

Barakamon, Vol. 4
Satsuki Yoshino
Yen Press
April 21

Black Lagoon, Vol. 10
Rei Hiroe
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21

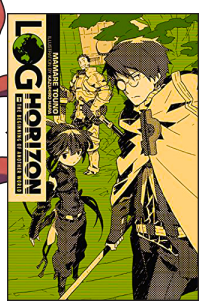
Dorohedoro, Vol. 15
Q Hayashida
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21



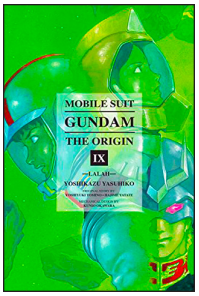
Gyo 2-in-1 Deluxe Edition
Junji Itō
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21

Inu x Boku SS, Vol. 7
Cocoa Fujiwara
Yen Press
April 21

Mikoto & Kuroko — A Certain Scientific Railgun



Log Horizon, Vol. 1
Mamare Tōno, Kazuhiro Hara
Yen On
April 21

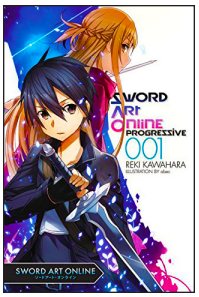


Mobile Suit Gundam: THE ORIGIN, Vol. 9
Yoshikazu Yasuhiko
Vertical, Inc.
April 21

Monster, Vol. 4
Naoki Urasawa
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21

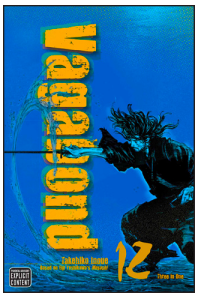
Puella Magi Tart Magica: The Legend of Jeanne d'Arc, Vol. 1
Magica Quartet, Kawazukū, Masugitsune
Yen Press
April 21

So, I Can't Play H, Vol. 1
Pan Tachibana, Shō Okagiri
Yen Press
April 21

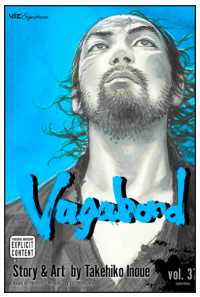


Sword Art Online Progressive, Vol. 2
Reki Kawahara, Kiseki Himura
Yen Press
April 21

Tena on S-String, Vol. 7
Sesuna Mikabe
Yen Press
April 21



Vagabond, Vol. 12 (VIZBIG Edition)
Takehiko Inoue
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21



Vagabond, Vol. 37
Takehiko Inoue
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 21

Witchcraft Works, Vol. 4
Ryū Mizunagi
Vertical, Inc.
April 21

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. †Yaoi and ††hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

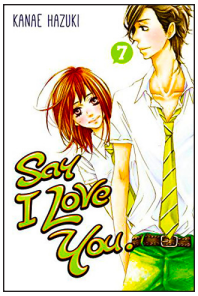
Your Lie in April, Vol. 1
Naoshi Arakawa
Kodansha Comics
April 21

Alice in the Country of Clover: The March Hare's Revolution
QuinRose, Ryō Kazuki
Seven Seas Entertainment
April 28

Give to the Heart, Vol. 3
Wann
NETCOMICS
April 28
Not Actual Cover

Maria the Virgin Witch, Vol. 2
Ishikawa Masayuki
Kodansha Comics
April 28

Noragami: Stray God, Vol. 4
Adachitoka
Kodansha Comics
April 28
Not Actual Cover



Say I Love You, Vol. 7
Kanae Hazuki
Kodansha Comics
April 28

Star Project Chiro, Vol. 1
Hyekyung Baek
NETCOMICS
April 28

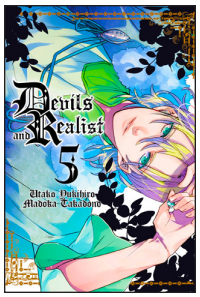
Sweet Blood, Vol. 1
Se-Young Kim
NETCOMICS
April 28
Not Actual Cover

xxxHOLIC REI, Vol. 3
Clamp
Kodansha Comics
April 28

Air Gear Omnibus 5
Oh! great
Kodansha Comics
May 5
Not Actual Cover

Black Rose Alice, Vol. 4
Setona Mizushiro
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

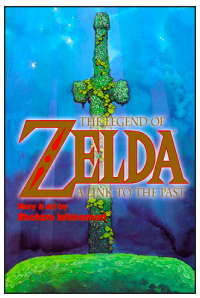
Bleach (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 11
Tite Kubo
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5



Devils and Realist, Vol. 5
Madoka Takadono, Utako Yukihiro
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 5

Dragonar Academy, Vol. 6
Shiki Mizuchi, Ran
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 5

JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Part 1 – Phantom Blood, Vol. 2
Hirohiko Araki
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5



Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past
Shōtarō Ishinomori
Perfect Square
May 5

Naruto (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 11
Masashi Kishimoto
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

Nisekoi: False Love, Vol. 9
Naoshi Komi
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

Oreimo: Kuroneko, Vol. 1
Sakura Ikeda
Dark Horse Manga
May 5

Ranma ½ (2-in-1 Edition), Vol. 8
Rumiko Takahashi
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

Ruri "Kuroneko" Gokō — Oreimo: Kuroneko

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. †Yaoi and ††hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Rosario+Vampire: Season II, Vol. 14
Akihisa Ikeda
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

Spell of Desire, Vol. 4
Tomu Ōmi
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

Tsubasa Omnibus 4
Clamp
Kodansha Comics
May 5

What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Vol. 8†
Fumi Fumi, Yoshinaga
Vertical, Inc.
May 5

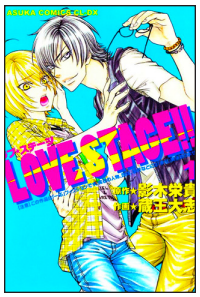
Yu-Gi-Oh! (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 2
Kazuki Takahashi
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 5

07-GHOST, Vol. 16
Yuki Amemiya, Yukino Ichihara
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 12

Even So, I Will Love You Tenderly†
Kō Yoneda
Digital Manga Publishing
May 12

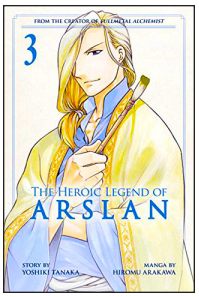
Evergreen, Vol. 1
Yuyuko Takemiya, Akira Kasukabe
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 12

Gantz, Vol. 35
Hiroya Oku
Dark Horse Manga
May 12



Love Stage!!, Vol. 1†
Eiki Eiki, Taishi Zaō
SuBLime
May 12
Not Actual Cover

The Ancient Magus' Bride, Vol 1
Kore Yamazaki
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 12
Not Actual Cover



The Heroic Legend of Arslan, Vol. 3
Hiromu Arakawa
Kodansha Comics
May 12

The Seven Deadly Sins, Vol. 8
Nakaba Suzuki
Kodansha Comics
May 12
Not Actual Cover

A Certain Magical Index, Vol. 1
Kazuma Kamachi, Chūya Kogino
Yen Press
May 19

Ani-Imo, Vol. 3
Haruko Kurumatani
Yen Press
May 19

Tsukune Aono — Rosaio+Vampire

Attack on Titan: Kuklo
Ryō Suzukaze, Thores Shibamoto
Vertical, Inc.
May 19
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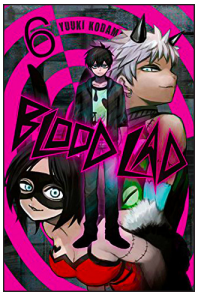
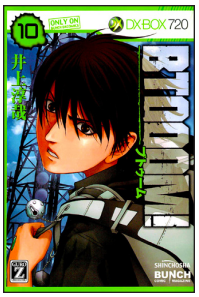


Blood Lad, Vol. 6
Yūki Kodama
Yen Press
May 19

Bride of the Water God, Vol. 17
Mi-Kyung Yun
Dark Horse Manga
May 19



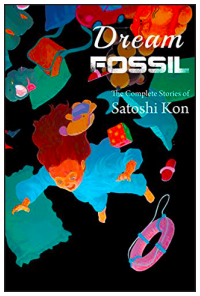
BTOOOM!, Vol. 10
Junya Inoue
Yen Press
May 19
Not Actual Cover

Dance in the Vampire Bund II: Scarlet Order, Vol. 2
Nozomu Tamaki
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 19

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.†Yaoi and††hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 *Continued*



Dream Fossil: The Complete Stories of Satoshi Kon
Satoshi Kon
Vertical, Inc.
May 19

Emma, Vol. 1
Kaoru Mori
Yen Press
May 19
Not Actual Cover

Gangsta., Vol. 6
Kōske .
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 19

Goong, Vol. 18
So Hee Park
Yen Press
May 19

Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?, Vol. 1
Fujino Ōmori, Kunieda
Yen Press
May 19

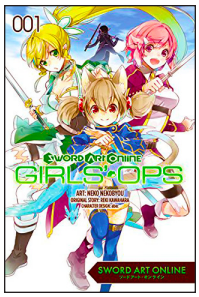
Kagerou Daze, Vol. 1
Jin, Shidu
Yen On
May 19

Lucifer and the Biscuit Hammer, Vol. 5-6
Satoshi Mizukami
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 19

My Little Monster, Vol. 8
Robico
Kodansha Comics
May 19
Not Actual Cover

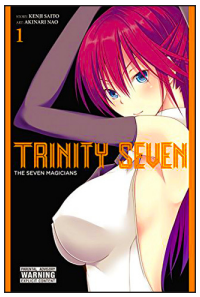
No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!, Vol. 7
Nico Tanigawa
Yen Press
May 19

Resident Evil, Vol. 4
Naoki Serizawa, CAPCOM
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 19



Sword Art Online: Girls' Ops, Vol. 1
Reki Kawahara, Neko Nekobyō
Yen Press
May 19

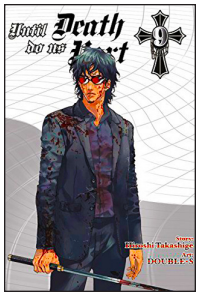
Terra Formars, Vol. 6
Yū Sasuga, Kenichi Tachibana
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 19



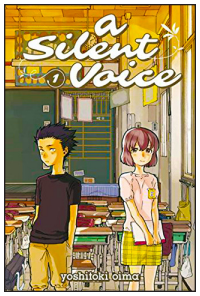
Trinity Seven, Vol. 1
Kenji Saitō, Akinari Nao
Yen Press
May 19

Ubel Blatt, Vol. 2
Etorōji Shiono
Yen Press
May 19

Umineko WHEN THEY CRY Episode 5: End of the Golden Witch, Vol. 1
Ryukishi07, Akitaka
Yen Press
May 19



Until Death Do Us Part, Vol. 9
Hiroshi Takashige, DOUBLE-S
Yen Press
May 19

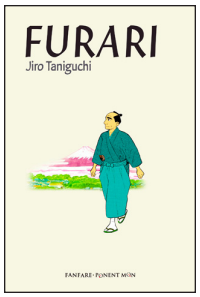


A Silent Voice, Vol. 1
Yoshitoki Oima
Kodansha Comics
May 26

Alice in the Country of Clover: Twin Lovers
QuinRose, Kei Shichiri
Seven Seas Entertainment
May 26

Drug and Drop, Vol. 2
Clamp
Dark Horse Books
May 26

Fairy Tail, Vol. 48
Hiro Mashima
Kodansha Comics
May 26
Not Actual Cover



Furari
Jirō Taniguchi
Ponent Mon S.L.
May 28

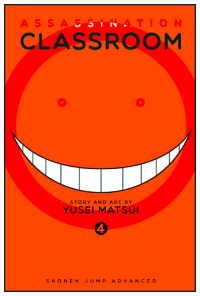
Ajin: Demi-Human, Vol. 5
Gamon Sakurai
Vertical, Inc.
June 2
Not Actual Cover

Asami Lilith & Yui Kurata — Trinity Seven

The information presented here is accurate as much as humanly possible, but subject to change without notice. Yaoi and hentai are for mature audiences only.

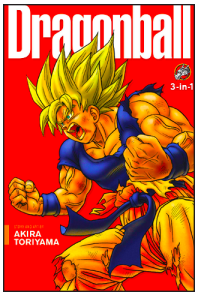
MANGA RELEASES

SPRING 2015 *Continued*



Assassination Classroom, Vol. 4
Yusei Matsui
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Blue Exorcist, Vol. 13
Kazue Katō
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2



Dragon Ball (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 9
Akira Toriyama
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

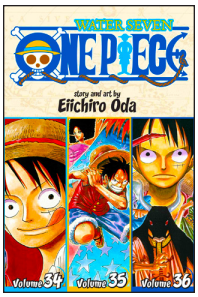
Eden, Vol. 1
Bash
Gen Manga Entertainment
June 2

Food Wars!, Vol. 6
Yuto Tsukudo, Shun SAEKI
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Kamisama Kiss, Vol. 18
Julietta Suzuki
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Kimi ni Todoke: From Me to You, Vol. 21
Karuho Shiina
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Naruto, Vol. 70
Masashi Kishimoto
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

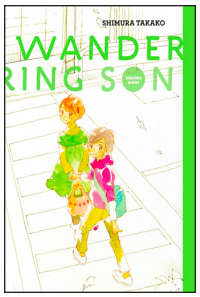


One Piece: Water Seven 34-35-36, Vol. 12 (Omnibus Edition)
Eiichirō Oda
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

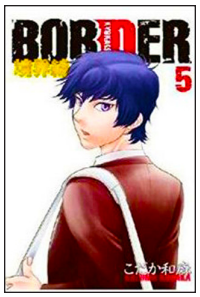
Seraph of the End, Vol. 5
Takaya Kagami, Yamato Yamamoto
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Toriko, Vol. 28
Mitsutoshi Shimabukuro
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2

Voice Over!: Seiyu Academy, Vol. 11
Maki Minami
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 2



Wandering Son, Vol. 8
Shimura Takako
Fantagraphics
June 7



Border, Vol. 5†
Kazuma Kodaka
Digital Manga Publishing
June 9

Captain Ken, Vol. 2
Osamu Tezuka
Digital Manga Publishing
June 9

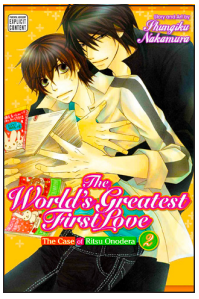
D-Frag!, Vol. 5
Tomoya Haruno
Seven Seas Entertainment
June 9

Girls Und Panzer, Vol. 4
Girls Und Panzer Projekt, Ryōichi Saitaniya
Seven Seas Entertainment
June 9
Not Actual Cover

Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic, Vol. 12
Shinobu Ōtaka
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 9
Not Actual Cover

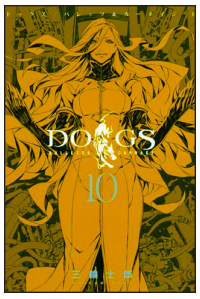
Say I Love You, Vol. 8
Kanae Hazuki
Kodansha Comics
June 9
Not Actual Cover

Starting with a Kiss, Vol. 3†
Yōka Nitta
SuBLime
June 9



The World's Greatest First Love, Vol. 2†
Shungiku Nakamura
SuBLime
June 9

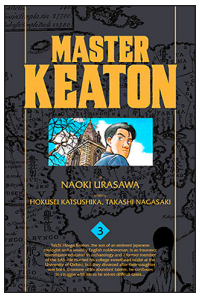
Aquarion Evol, Vol. 2
Shōji Kawamori, Aogiri
One Peace Books
June 16



Dogs: Bullets & Carnage, Vol. 10
Shirō Miwa
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 16

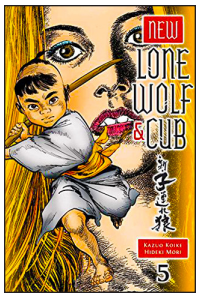
Fragments of Horror
Junji Itō
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 16
Not Actual Cover

Haganai: I Don't Have Many Friends, Vol. 11
Yomi Hirasaka, Itachi
Seven Seas Entertainment
June 16
Not Actual Cover



Master Keaton, Vol. 3
Naoki Urasawa, Takashi Nagasaki
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 16

Mobile Suit Gundam: The ORIGIN, Vol. 10
Yoshikazu Yasuhiko
Vertical, Inc.
June 16
Not Actual Cover



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Seven Seas Entertainment
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Spice and Wolf

Of Wolf, Spice and Everything Nice
A Commentary on the World of Spice and Wolf, the Series and the First Season

Having become somewhat of a cult hit over the past few years, the 2008 anime entry *Spice and Wolf* is highly regarded throughout the community and for good reason. It's different, fresh and entertaining. I know these labels are a little ambiguous and are credited to just about everything, so let us go a little more in depth. Why is Spice and Wolf so popular? Why is the story of a wolf girl and a merchant traveling throughout a medieval landscape so endearing? Most importantly, why do we come for the economics? In the following commentary on the series, with specifically season one in mind, I will cover these issues and more as we look back on some of the more interesting tenets of the series. So sit back, relax and if you pay attention you just might learn how to save a trenni or two on your next purchase at your local market!

Before we go any further, it's important to highlight some of the production credits for this series as there are actually some eye openers. Firstly, we must give credit to the source material, in this case the light novel series written by Isuna Hasekura, who in 2005 won the Silver Prize in the Dengeki Novel Prize writing contest for his debut novel of Spice & Wolf. This contest has also been the origins of other popular light novelists and series, most notably Baccano! which won the Golden prize back in 2002. If you are wondering who beat *Spice and Wolf* that year it was the novel *Orusu Banshee* by Masatake Ogawa. Yeah, never heard of either, but we digress. The animated series was directed by Takeo Takahashi, who would also go on to direct season two and the *Spice and Wolf* clone, Maoyū Maō Yusha. Other notable direction and involvement includes *Rozen Maiden* (director), *Love Hina* (animation) and *Outbreak Company* (Storyboard). The animation was handled by IMAGIN which, other than the series at hand, has not handled anything noteworthy. So right from the get go, we see that *Spice and Wolf* was somewhat of a journey into the unknown with the production of the series coming from a studio and director which had yet to be proven.

Ōkami to Kōshinryō
(Spice and Wolf)
狼と香辛料
TV • Season 1 • January 9–March 26, 2008
TV • Season 2 • July 9– September 23, 2009
Imagin • Funimation

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spice_and_Wolf

www.spicy-wolf.com

www.funimation.com/shows/spice-and-wolf/home

Director: Takahashi, Takeo
Writer: Arakawa, Naruhisa
Music: Yoshino, Yūji

Cast:
Holo = Koshimizu, Ami
Kraft Lawrence = Fukuyama, Jun

The initial premise of the series isn't too complicated and follows a model familiar to us all. Boy meets girl, the two characters adventure together, they traverse difficult conflicts and finally begin to fall for one another. The premise is well known and has been used countless times and in numerous ways. However, the means which Spice & Wolf uses to reach its ends are what set its version of the classic formula apart. In the following section, we will overview the plot, setting and world of the series, or more specifically what makes it so effective and unique.

Firstly, let's take a look at the world of *Spice and Wolf* and why it is an effective setting. The world in which Holo and Lawrence live in is important because it does not simply act as the background to the story, but also has an active in role in the plot. However, before we discuss its role we have to first identify the where, what and when of the setting. The series takes place in a fictional late medieval world with heavy European influences. Like medieval Europe, the world of *Spice and Wolf* is split into kingdoms, duchies and smaller political bodies, such as the nation of Trenni (which has a coin in its name) and the nation of Plaonia in which most of season one takes place. Other notable comparisons are the pagan north, Holo's home, which is both feared and misunderstood. In between the pagan north and the lower nations, we can find the city of Ruvenheigen which has a very religious culture and is often the starting point for many militaristic ventures in the north, both past and present. I would find it hard to believe that our author, Isuna Hasekura, did not have the medieval landscape of Livonia in mind when modelling the world of *Spice and Wolf*, with a mix of Christian and pagan cultures pushing and pulling against one another.

Speaking of Christianity, the Church is the first part of the world of series' setting which has an active role within the story. It is important to note that the Church in *Spice and Wolf* is never referred to by its religious denomination, but rather as the institution. This is probably as to not envision any one specific faith, but still has consequences which will be discussed below. The fear of being discovered by the Church is an active influence in both Lawrence and Holo's decision making throughout the story. If Holo were to be

discovered, both she and Lawrence would find themselves tied to the stake for being a demon and heretic. This consequence plays an important role in the "Pazzio arch" of season one, in which our two protagonists become caught up in a currency speculation scheme. Holo is caught by the Medio Company and Lawrence blackmailed with the threat of tipping off the Church as to her existence. In order to not be caught, Lawrence, along with the Milone Company, with which he is associated, come up with a scheme to rescue Holo so that her existence remains a secret. The resulting action sequence of this arch can be mostly attributed to this factor. Another example in which the Church has a significant impact on the plot is in the aforementioned city of Ruvenheigen. Within this city, the Church controls all of the gold import and exports with heavy tariffs and taxes. As a result, the trade of gold is heavily regulated and merchants want the situation to change. When Lawrence becomes nearly bankrupt when the arms market crashes, he devises plan to smuggle gold into the city which will bring much profit for all involved. Once again, the gold smuggling of the arch is not only the climax of the story arch, but also the first season and can be attributed to the Church acting as the initiator to the problem which must be solved.

On a side note, Isuna Hasekura's work and the series as whole can also be seen as a commentary on the role of organized religion in not only the past, but also the contemporary world. This is why the series only refers to the institution rather than any denomination. The main message which is conveyed through this commentary is the role of religion in influencing our perception of the 'other'. The other in this case is Holo, a pagan deity. Despite her kindness, dreams of returning home, her desire to be treated fairly and her dedication to the village of Pasloe, she would be burnt at the stake without a second thought. This can be compared to today where we still villanize an individual for having a different set of beliefs and values than ourselves, despite for the most part being people just like ourselves. Why would the Church in the world of *Spice and Wolf* want her dead? Because her very existence undermines its teachings and thus authority. The same can be said of the modern day.

But enough of that, time for what we are all here for, the economics! Without question the economic aspect of *Spice and Wolf* is what gives the series its unique charm and appeal. The monetary characteristic of the series functions in two ways. Firstly, like the Church, it's an active influence throughout the series and simply does not just fill up the blanks in the background; it serves as an important means to drive the plot on wards. With Lawrence's background as a merchant, it would have easy to simply keep this aspect in the backdrop. Rather, like in our boring daily lives, the need to make money in order to live is the primary concern of our protagonists. In fact, monetary transactions and purchases serve the purpose of furthering character development and binding our protagonists closer together. A great example is

the "fruit scented fur trick" pulled off by Holo. Having managed to trick a seasoned merchant into buying Lawrence's furs at a higher than usual price, we learn that Holo is very clever and witness the early process by which Lawrence begins to trust her more. Holo aiding in his transactions becomes a regular activity throughout both seasons and they grow closer to one another as a result. In other words, the economics serves as a means to further develop the relationship between the two.

The second important impact the economics has is that it gives the world of *Spice and Wolf* an astounding amount of depth and realism. Our economy, or I should say economies, are complicated creatures with many moving parts some of which we see every day, like our credit cards and pocket change to some less noticeable parts like interest and loan rates. This complexity is reflected in the world of *Spice and Wolf* and serves to make the world much more interesting and believable. What are most of us faced with when looking up the news? The economy, the NASDAQ, this politician wants to lower taxes and personal savings are usual news headlines we come across. An anime series, such as *Spice and Wolf*, which actively deals with issues such as loans, interests, inflation/deflation is not only interesting and unique, but also very relatable. This answers part of the question as to why the series is so popular, the economics enables a particular level of immersion.

Another important factor about the overall story of Spice and Wolf is its pacing. Pacing is always a point of contention when it comes to either praising or criticizing a series. In the case of *Spice and Wolf*, the pacing is slow, steady, consistent with well placed (more action oriented or dramatic) scenes in between. However, the slow pacing allows the series to engage in what it's good at, dialogue and world building. In order to build on Lawrence and Holo's relationship, the series chooses to rely on dialogue more than action. As a result, we have many scenes where both simply talk with one another and engage in playful wordiness and mind games, which consequently lead them to become closer to one another. A secondary effect of this dialogue is that our protagonists also engage in multiple dialogue heavy scenes with other secondary characters, such as Norah and other merchants in which they (and the viewer) learn new developments about the world of Spice & Wolf, whether it be economic in nature or a tale about the legends and lore of this world.

So to answer the question of why we enjoy *Spice and Wolf* so much and what role the plot and setting have in it is twofold response. Firstly, the world of the series has depth and by this I mean the setting is well thought out and engaging. The world plays an active role in the plot and helps drive along the story, but also adds a level of realism because it is actually quite relatable to our own. Secondly, the steady and slow pacing allows for the protagonists and viewers to engage and learn about the world and themselves at the same time. In this regard, the world of *Spice and Wolf* is far superior to the settings that we find in an average anime.

This is supposed to be a review right? So let's get down to the meat and potatoes of the series, the characters. There is no mistaking that the characters, namely Lawrence and Holo, their interactions and evolving relationship all form the heart and soul of the *Spice and Wolf*. Of course, this statement stands true for the first season. Therefore, we might as well begin with the famous Holo the wise wolf. Holo is a special character, there is no doubting that statement. In fact, she is one of the few faces known universally throughout the anime community and is so popular that she has made cameo appearances in other series (see *Durarara!!* Ep.1), but who is she exactly? Should we view Holo as a pagan god? A wolf? A furry? Or probably as she wants to treated, like a normal person.

On the exterior, Holo is emblematic of what every guy wants in a woman. She is beautiful, strong willed, intelligent and has a great sense of humour. However, if we look past these traits we find that Isuna Hasekura has created a very deep and complex character whose beautiful face is nothing but a front for a deeply damaged soul and mind with plenitudes of insecurities which have a major influence on the series. Therefore, we must ask, what are these internal dilemmas which Holo faces and how do they impact the plot and other characters?

One of the biggest difficulties which Holo has to come to terms with over the course of the series is her sense of isolation. It is somewhat ironic that one of anime's most popular girls is also one of the loneliest. The reason for this is her former attachment to the town of Pasloe. The small town, which we first encounter at the beginning of the series, is the place where Holo has been bound for many centuries. For reasons unknown, she made a contract with a villager and promised to bring the village a bountiful wheat yield every year and in exchange the villagers celebrated in her name during the yearly harvest. As a deity, she was never able to properly interact with any villagers. She was either bound within the wheat of the village, would be feared in her "true" wolf form, or seen as a demon in her human form on account of her ears and tail.

As the years passed, she became increasingly misunderstood, neglected and isolated. The villagers, who expected bountiful harvest every year, criticized Holo when poor results came about every odd year. This occurred when Holo needed to let the soil rest and generate nutrients for the next crop; however the villagers were naive of this process and therefore took out their displeasure on her name. Further disregard of her dedication to the village was increased with the introduction of new agricultural techniques which made Holo's role nearly obsolete (as explained in the series). Thus, imagine having to live for years in isolation feeling not only disrespected and unacknowledged for the work that have done, but also feeling useless. Yes, that would take a toll on anyone's psyche. As a result, this has a direct impact on the second internal issue, her desire to be treated equally, to escape her role as an unloved deity, or in other words, to be human.

Now some of you may be saying "But wait, what about the festival in Holo's name every year? Is that even important?" The answer is yes, and this also has an important impact on Holo as a character. The only time of year in which Holo was able to be close to the people of the village was during the yearly festival and this had a direct effect on how she attempts to be "normal". It accounts for her regular feasting and binge drinking which regularly empty Lawrence's wallet. One could argue that Holo's idea of acting human or at least casually, is to imitate these types of festival style actions. However, this desire to be human has an important secondary consequence, her attachment to Lawrence. Lawrence is one of the few characters of the series which treat her like a normal human despite knowing her true identity as a wolf deity. It is this acceptance of her and acknowledgement of her desire to be treated as an equal which acts as the initial impetus towards her attachment to the travelling merchant. With that being said, we can now appreciate the job Isuna Hasekura has done in building such an interesting character.

Speaking of Lawrence, we need to shed some light on the man who is usually forgotten in Holo's shadow. For those of you who may not know, Lawrence is actually the main character of the light novel series and we see everything

through his eyes and interpretation. However, this does not translate through to the anime. So what can we say about anime version Lawrence? What questions can we ask about him that might reveal more about his character and the series?

First of all we must ask, why does he decide to travel with a wolf girl in the first place? In this regard he is similar to Holo in that he also suffers from a degree of isolation and loneliness. Although it may not be of the same nature as Holo's predicament, it also has an impact on the plot and on his relationship with the aforementioned wolf girl. Despite having many contacts and work associates the life of a travelling merchant is one of solitude. Always travelling from one destination to the next, Lawrence has little to no time to make real friends as he must travel to his next trading destination to make a living. This is reflected in his greatest desire which root himself in a town and to open a shop. This way he can make regular friends, associates and maybe even find himself a nice girl.

It is his loneliness and need to root himself somewhere which acts as the initial impulse behind travelling with Holo. True, with Holo he certainly sees a pretty face, no doubting that, but the relationship from his end is a little more complex than that. With Holo, Lawrence is no longer lonely has someone to share small talk and his thoughts, and concerns with. As the series goes on and their relationship grows Lawrence begins to see someone whom he cares a lot about, someone who makes his trading wagon, which was first a symbol for his solitude, now seem like his home. Overall, the characters of *Spice and Wolf* are both complex and engaging and I hope the above section has revealed a little about why we, as an audience, are so enthralled to follow the travelling duo as they trade fur and spices. Now something must be said of some secondary characters, namely Nora Arendt.

I will not go too far with Nora, as she just does not receive enough screen time to merit a significant analysis. However, what we can determine is that her role as a secondary character is emblematic of just how much depth the world of *Spice and Wolf* has. Firstly, she is a victim of the cruel superstitions of the medieval world. Shepherds always found themselves on the fringes of society due to the grueling obligations of their duty. As a result their lifestyles differed greatly from their urban counterparts. To watch a flock of sheep is no easy task! It is because they found themselves on the outside looking in, that many viewed them as strange and heretical, simply because they did not conform to the societal norm. Nora is always seen as a strange girl, who commands pagan spells to keep her flock safe from rabid wolves, who apparently no one else can deal with. In medieval lore, the devil was always seen as leading God's flock astray. The symbolism of Nora's position in the story is painfully obvious. Therefore, her role in juxtaposition to the rules and lore of the world (see section about the Church) of *Spice and Wolf* simply adds to the depth of the story. Isuna Hasekura knew very well what he was doing when he made Nora a shepherdess.

This also applies to her role as the intruder into the "love triangle" of the second half of season one. In western literary tradition, the shepherd is always a love-stricken character due to their lonely existence. While tending to their flocks, they sing about love, they dream about love and write about love. This was somewhat of a golden literary trope of the late medieval (setting of *Spice and Wolf*) and early modern age, but dates back to the Greeks (See works under Pastoral literature). Some of the main tropes of this form of literature were romanticism, the divide between urban and rural life and love. As a character, Nora represents these tropes and brings them to the story. She is emblematic of the romanticised shepherdess because she is beautiful, kind and fair despite living an arduous life. She represents the dichotomy between urban and rural because she is seen as an outsider and treated as such in the city of Ruvenheigen. Finally, she represents love, because like it or not, Lawrence finds her to be quite interesting. It is the resulting jealously from Holo which makes this representation so important. As a secondary character Nora is used to further deepen the bonds between Lawrence and Holo because her intrusion makes each realize the bond they have with one another.

So what can we conclude about the characters? For one, we sympathize with them because we feel for their troubles and hard lifestyles they must endure. All three mentioned in this section have some trouble that we are rooting for them to overcome and a destination that we want them to see arrive at. In the case of Lawrence and Holo, this is their respective sense of isolation and the role of their growing relationship in healing emotional scars. A flashy term in our community is "character development". This term has been hijacked as a label to concretize a series' status as "good" when in reality few have proper development at all. For *Spice and Wolf*, there is no need to add this label, the characters speak for themselves.

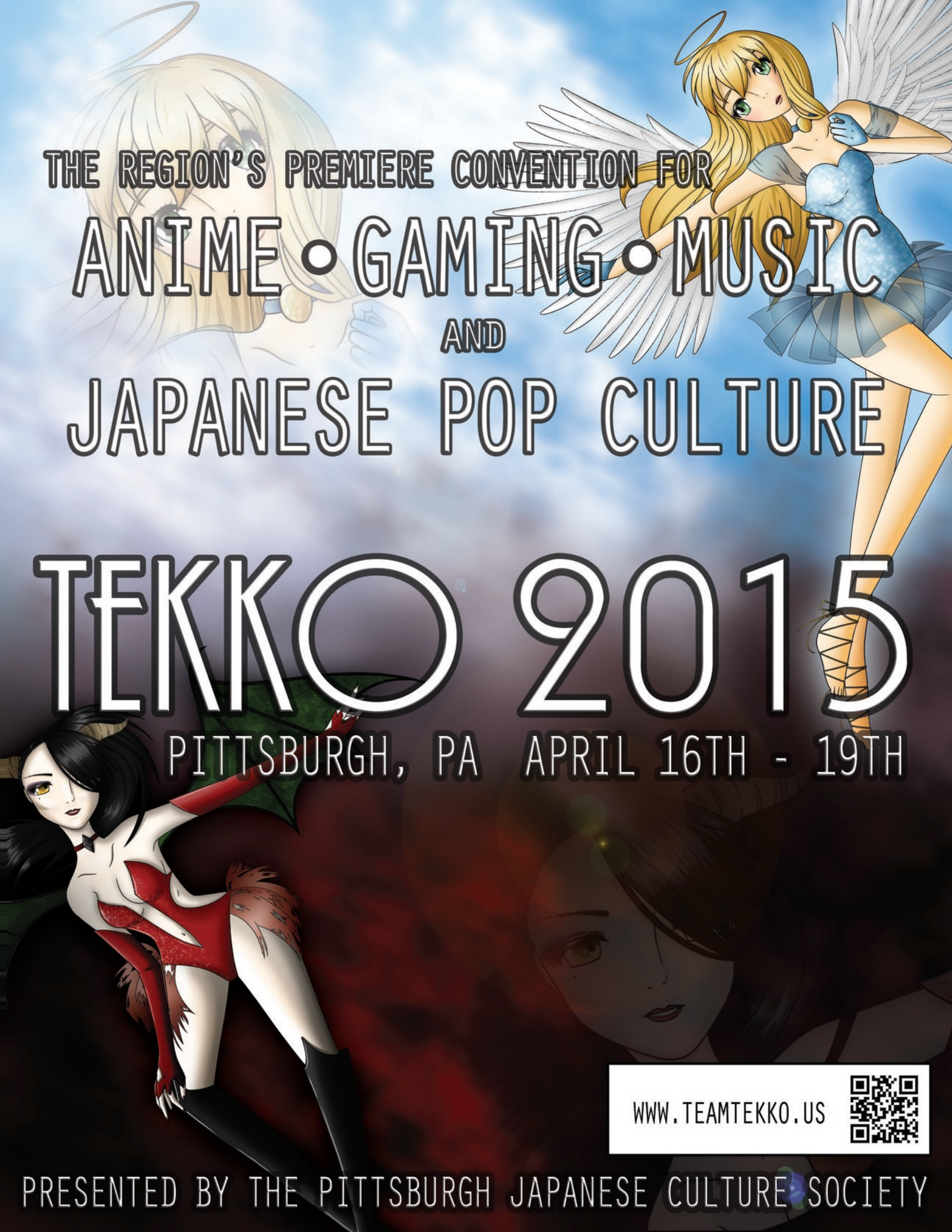
Before we arrive at the conclusion and final thoughts we must cover the audiovisual aspects of season one. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I am by no means an animator or sound technician so my knowledge of this section is rather limited. So let's begin with the animation. As mentioned above, the animation for season one was handled by IMAGIN, who is only really known for the work at hand. This is probably due to the fact that their production is not up to par with other studios, and it shows in *Spice and Wolf*'s animation. For the most part, the animation is solid, consistent and does a good job portraying a medieval world. However, if we compare *Spice and Wolf* with other series at the time in terms of animation quality we see that there is much to be desired. If we take a look at some notable surrounding releases such as *Gurren Lagann* (2007), the aforementioned *Baccano!* (2007), *Soul Eater* (2008) or the superbly animated *Kara no Kyokai* (2007-2009), *Spice and Wolf* does not stand out in terms of animation. Rather, it appears to stick to what the average standard was between 2007 and 2009. Not to say that the animation is bad, but it does little to stand out for the time.

The musical score on the other hand, manages to capture the essence of the era and bring it to life in the series. With an interesting mix of pieces to cover many different situations the soundtrack plays an important role in the viewer's

immersion into the series. In order to achieve this end the soundtrackmakes use of a multitude of instruments and styles.

There is also an impressive attempt at recreating a medieval contemporary feel with the use of instruments which would have been available at the time such as lutes, fiddles and the harp. The only pitfall I can point out is that the original soundtrack is lacking a true standout piece that makes itself different from the others. However, a counter argument someone might point out is the impressive opening theme "Tabi no Tochū" by Natsumi Kiyoura. This opening is not only beautiful, but captures the essence of season one. As a slow, steady, melodic piece, "Tabi no Tochū" acts as a proper book cover for the series. One should never judge a series by its opening, but there are a few exceptions to this rule, as *Spice and Wolf*'s opening matches the series very well.

Therefore, we must once again ask the question that began our venture into this commentary. Why is *Spice and Wolf* so popular? The answer to this question has many layers, but we will reiterate for the sake of the conclusion. The setting and world of the series is has depth, is relatable, and plays and active role in the story. The characters are developed, we sympathize for them and are encouraged to cheer for them along the way. The animation is consistent and does a solid job of portraying the medieval world of *Spice and Wolf*. The soundtrack is diverse, soothing and well suited for the setting of the series. As for the overall enjoyment? It is difficult to say since this is such a subjective category and opinions differ from person to person. What I will say is that *Spice and Wolf* was one of the first anime series I watched quite a while ago and I loved it. It is one of the few series which propelled me further into anime. With that being said, I have revisited this series multiple times since then with the manga and light novel as well. Finally, coming back to the anime to refresh my mind for this commentary I was able to appreciate just how unique this series is relative to how much more I know about anime compared to when I first watched it. So my reply to the 'enjoyment' section? *Spice and Wolf* is a great venture into what the world of anime can be when it is at its best. ❖ Jesse Moreau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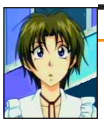

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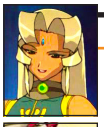

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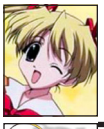

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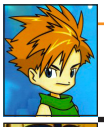

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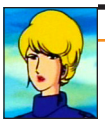

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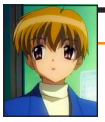

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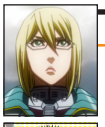

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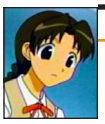

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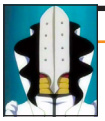

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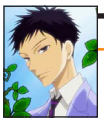

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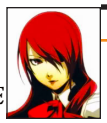
Clark Steel

King of Fighters



8

Kirijo, Mitsuru

Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 3

9

Totsuka, Saika

Yahari Ore no Seishun Lovecome wa Machigatteiru

10

Miyazaki, Nodoka

Mahō Sensei Negima!

Oyamada, Masami

Someday's Dreamer

11

Kaidō, Kaoru

Tennis no Ōujisama

12

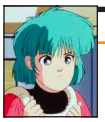
Jinnai, Nanami

Shinpi no Sekai El Hazard

15

Shapiro Keats

Chōjū Kishin Dancougar



16

Amy

Zillion

17

Pai Chan

Virtua Fighter 5

19

Hashida, Itaru

Steins;Gate

Kashiwazaki, Sena

Boku wa Tomodachi ga Sukunai

21

Fueguchi, Hinami

Tōkyō Kushu

24

Albetro Nal Eiji Asuka

Aoki Ryūsei SPT Layzner

25

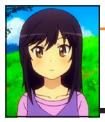
Ayukawa, Madoka

Kimagure Orange Road

27

Ogino, Kuniharu

Cuticle Tantei Inaba



28

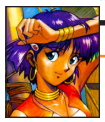
Ichijō, Hotaru

Non Non Biyori

30

Seiya, Kō/Sailor Star Fighter

Bishōjo Senshi Sailor Moon

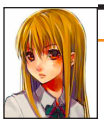


31

Nadia

Fushigi no Umi no Nadia

JUNE 六月



1

Ayase, Chihaya

Chihayafuru

3

Hinamori, Momo

Bleach

Matsuura, Yū

Marmalade Boy

6

Rokumatsuri, Minazuki

Happy Lesson

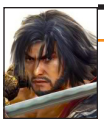
Sally Ford

Macross 7

7

Dobashi, Rika

Hatsukoi Limited



8

Mitsurugi

Soul Calibur 5

9

Agake, Mondo

Kidō Senshi Gundam ZZ

Tōjō, Nozomi

Love Live!

School Idol Project

10

Kiyoshi, Teppei

Kuroko no Basuke

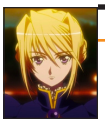
12

Hasebe, Aya

Comic Party

Nōmi Kudryavka

Little Busters!



15

Sylvia van Hossen

Princess Lover!

16

Marco Bott

Shingeki no Kyojin

17

Kaji, Ryōji

Shin Seiki Evangelion

18

Shippo

InuYasha

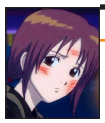
19

Misty Cornwell

Vandread

Tachibana, Maria

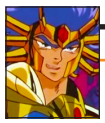
Sakura Taisen



21

Hanako

Gintama



24

Cancer Deathmask

Saint Seiya

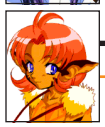
26

Spike Spiegel

Cowboy Bebop

Yamigumo, Nami

Silent Möbius



30

Merle

Tenkū no Escaflowne

Tsukino, Chibiusa

Bishōjo Senshi Sailor Moon

TOP MALE RANKING†

1
Kōgami, Shin'ya
狡噛 慎也
Psycho-Pass

2
Archer
アーチャー
Fate/Zero

3
Kirigaya, Kazuto
桐ヶ谷 和人
Sword Art Online

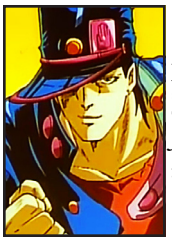
4
Ginoza, Nobuchika
宜野座 伸元
Psycho-Pass

5
Emiya, Shirō
衛宮 士郎
Fate/stay night: Unlimited Blade Works

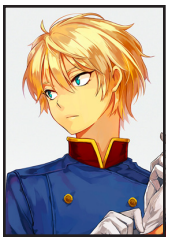
6
Araragi, Koyomi
阿良々木 暦
Monogatari Series

7
Kaidzuka, Inaho
界塚 伊奈帆
Aldnoah.Zero

8
Producer
プロデューサー
THE iDOLM@STER CINDERELLA GIRLS



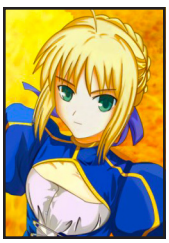
9
Kujō, Jōtarō
空条 承太郎
JoJo no Kimyō na Bōken



10
Slaine Troyard
スレイン・トロイヤード
Aldnoah.Zero

TOP FEMALE RANKING†

1
Tsunemori, Akane
常守 朱
Psycho-Pass



2
Saber Arturia Pendragon
セイバー・アルトリア・ペンドラゴン
Fate/zero

3
Tōsaka, Rin
遠坂 凛
Unlimited Blade Works

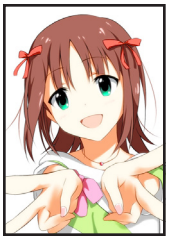
4
Yūki, Asuna
結城 明日奈
Sword Art Online

5
Angelise Ikaruga Misurugi
アンジュリーゼ・斑鳩・ミスルギ
Cross Ange: Tenshi to Ryū no Rondo

6
Ayanami, Rei
綾波 レイ
Shin Seiki Evangelion

7
Oshino, Shinobu
忍野 忍
Monogatari Series

8
Sento, Isuzu
千斗 いすず
Amagi Brilliant Park



9
Amami, Haruka
天海 春香
THE iDOLM@STER

10
Senjōgahara, Hitagi
戦場ヶ原 ひたぎ
Monogatari Series

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. †NewType The Motion Picutres Magazine

PRESS RELEASE

Omni Productions, LLC announces **Riki Lecotey** ("Riddle") has been added to the roster of special guests who will be in attendance at OMNI EXPO, scheduled for the weekend of May 22-24, 2015, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

Riki Lecotey (known as Riddle) was a main cast members on both seasons of *Heroes of Cosplay*, not only winning the most numbers of awards on there, but also creating some of the most memorable costumes on both seasons. She also has appeared in two award winning documentaries, 4 days at *Dragoncon & Cosplay: Crafting a Secret Identity*.

Introduced to gaming and anime at an early age, it was only a matter of time before Riki LeCotey would find the best way to express her fandom: cosplay. According to Riki "each costume presents its own set of challenges, requiring me to learn new skills like trans-lation, sculpting, molding, casting and of course, sewing."

Photo by Benny Lee

Riddle's appearance is sponsored by Tabcat Productions. Press release January 21, 2015.

Photo by Photographes Sans Frontieres

Visit www.omniexpo.com for more information.

Photo by AD LARue

Riddle transplanted from her igloo in Canada, moved to the United States and has been involved in costuming for over 14 years. She is internationally recognized in the cosplay community for her ability to translate costumes and focus on craftsmanship. She's been invited to conventions around the world to judge costume contests, host workshops and promote cosplay. She also has gotten the opportunity to work on a few films during that time.

Also an avid cook, Riki is the creator of Cosplay for a Cause, whose first project was a cosplay calendar that raised more than $30,000 with 100% of the proceeds donated to the Japanese Red Cross tsunami disaster relief. Her favorite act of charity, however, is rescuing and rehabilitating baby squirrels.

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ANIME CONCERTS

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ANIME LECTURES
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Saturday Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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VIC MIGNOGNA
ANIME VOICE ACTOR
Skype Q&A Interview

SUE LEE
MAKE UP ARTISTS
SYFY FACE OFF SEASON 2

J POP IDOL & SINGER
HITOMI HIMEKAWA
AND THE RAINBOW BUBBLE DANCERS

TEAM DETTY COSPLAY

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UP COMING ANIME DVD/BLU-RAY RELEASES

SPRING 2015

March 24

Armitage II: The Complete Saga (Anime Classics)
FUNimation
DVD • $29.98 MSRP • Re-release

Bokurano: Complete Collection
Discotek Media
DVD • $49.95 MSRP • Sub

Place to Place: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

Pokémon - Black and White Adventures in Unova: Set 2
Viz Media
DVD • $26.95 MSRP • Dub

School Rumble: Season 1 + OVA Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
FUNimation
DVD • $29.98 MSRP • Repackage

School Rumble: Season 2 Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
FUNimation
DVD • $29.98 MSRP • Repackage

Student Council's Discretion: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Student Council's Discretion: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

March 25

Fate/stay night [Unlimited Blade Works] Blu-ray Box 1
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $498.98 MSRP • Sub Import

March 31

Chi's Sweet Home (Season 1): Complete Collection
Discotek Media
DVD • $44.95 MSRP • Sub

Gingitsune - Messenger Fox of the Gods: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Gingitsune - Messenger Fox of the Gods: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

Harlock: Space Pirate
Ketchup Entertainment
DVD • $20.99 MSRP

Lovely Complex: Complete Collection
Discotek Media
DVD • $39.95 MSRP • Sub Repackage

Magi - The Kingdom of Magic: Complete DVD Set, Volume 1
Aniplex of America
DVD • $79.98 MSRP

Nisekoi - False Love, Volume 3
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $64.98 MSRP • Sub

Mikoto Suō, Yakumo, Tsukamoto, Eri Sawachika, Tenma Tsukamoto & Akira Takano — School Rumble

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

UPCOMING ANIME DVD/BLU-RAY

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Outbreak Company: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

Outbreak Company: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Sankarea - Undying Love: Complete Collection
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $59.98 MSRP • Uncut

.hack//Legend of Twilight: Complete Collection
FUNimation
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

Black Butler: Season 1 Collection (Anime Classics)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $49.98 MSRP

Looking Up at the Half-Moon: Complete Collection
TRSI/Lucky Penny
DVD • $29.99 MSRP • Sub

Durarara!! Complete Blu-ray Box Set
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $159.98 MSRP

One Piece: Season 6, Part 4
FUNimation
DVD • $39.98 MSRP •

Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie -Rebellion-
Aniplex of America
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie -Rebellion-
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray •
$49.98 MSRP

Mami Tomoe, Sayaka Miki, Madoka Kaname, Kyōko Sakura & Homura Akemi — Puella Magi Madoka Magica: The Movie -Rebellion-

RELEASES

Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie -Rebellion- (LE)
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $79.98 MSRP

She, The Ultimate Weapon: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

The Rose of Versailles, Part 2 (Litebox)
TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment
DVD • $39.99 MSRP • Sub

Tokyo Ravens, Part 1
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

Tokyo Ravens, Part 1 (LE)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $69.98 MSRP

April 10

DENKI-GAI: Collectors' Edition 1
PONYCAN USA
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $89.98 MSRP • Sub

YUKI YUNA IS A HERO: Collector's Edition 1
PONYCAN USA
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $89.98 MSRP

April 14

DD Fist of the North Star: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

DD Fist of the North Star: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

Noir: Complete Collection (Anime Classics)
FUNimation
Blu-ray • $49.98 MSRP

The Pet Girl of Sakurasou: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $69.98 MSRP • Sub

The Pet Girl of Sakurasou: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $89.98 MSRP • Sub

April 21

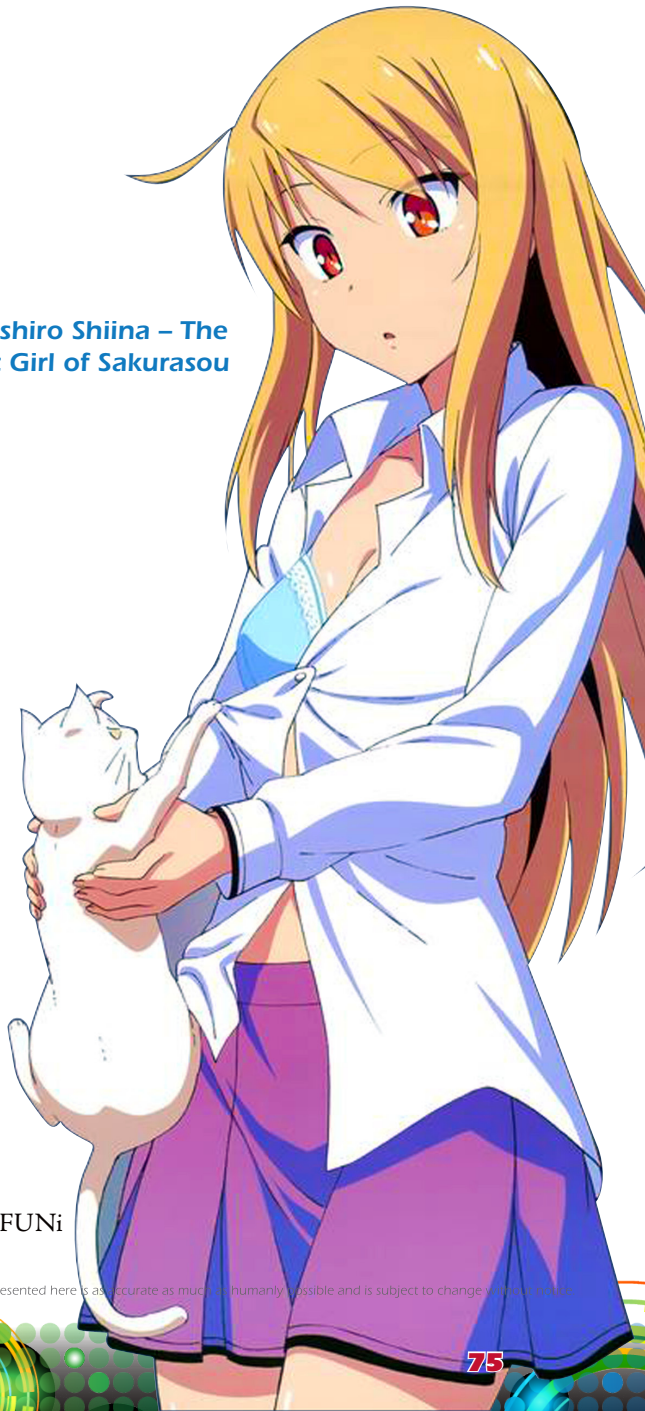
-Hanamonogatari- Suruga Devil Blu-ray Set (LE)
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $64.98 MSRP • Sub

Devil Survivor 2 - The Animation: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Freezing Vibration: Complete Collection
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

Freezing Vibration: Complete Collection (LE)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $69.98 MSRP

Freezing Vibration: Complete Collection (LE)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $84.98 MSRP • FUNi Shop exclusive



Mashiro Shiina – The Pet Girl of Sakurasou

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

UPCOMING ANIME DVD/BLU-RAY

SPRING 2015 *Continued*

Hibito & Mutta Nanba — Space Brothers

Naruto Shippuden: Set 22
Viz Media
DVD • $44.82 MSRP

One Piece: Collection 12
FUNimation
DVD • $34.98 MSRP

Space Brothers: Collection 2
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Space Brothers: Collection 2
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

the Garden of sinners: recalled out summer. Blu-ray Set (LE)
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $79.98 MSRP • Sub

Unlimited Psychic Squad: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Unlimited Psychic Squad: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

April 24

Mobile Suit Gundam The Origin, Vol. 1 (CE)
Bandai Visual
Blu-ray • $99.98 MSRP • Import

April 28

D-FRAG!: Complete Collection
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

D-FRAG!: Complete Collection (LE)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $69.98 MSRP

FREE! Iwatobi Swim Club: Season 1 Collection
Crunchyroll/Discotek
DVD • $39.95 MSRP • Sub

Fushigi Yugi: Seasons 1 & 2 Collection
Media Blasters
DVD • $69.98 MSRP

Hayate the Combat Butler - Can't Take My Eyes Off You: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Hayate the Combat Butler - Can't Take My Eyes Off You: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

KILL la KILL, Volume 5
Aniplex of America
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

KILL la KILL, Volume 5
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $49.98 MSRP

KILL la KILL, Volume 5 (LE)
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $74.98 MSRP

Lupin the 3rd: The Castle of Cagliostro
Discotek Media
Blu-ray • $29.95 MSRP

Nobunaga the Fool: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

RELEASES

Nobunaga the Fool: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Saiyuki: Seasons 1 & 2 Collection
AEsir Holdings
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Repackage

Samurai Pizza Cats: Complete Collection
Discotek Media
DVD • $49.95 MSRP • Dub Re-release

Samurai Troopers (TV): Complete Collection
Discotek Media
DVD • $59.95 MSRP • Sub

World Conquest Zvezda Plot: Complete Collection
Aniplex of America
DVD • $74.98 MSRP • Sub

May 5

Patlabor the Movie
Maiden Japan
DVD • $29.98 MSRP

Patlabor the Movie
Maiden Japan
Blu-ray • $39.98 MSRP

Pokémon - Adventures in the Orange Islands: Complete Collection
Viz Media
DVD • $26.95 MSRP • Dub Re-release

Solty Rei: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
FUNimation
DVD • $29.98 MSRP • Repackage

The World God Only Knows: OVA Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $29.98 MSRP

The World God Only Knows: OVA Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $39.98 MSRP

Yakitate!! Japan, Part 2
TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment
DVD • $49.99 MSRP • Sub

Yu-Gi-Oh! Zexal: Season 1 Collection
4K Media/Cinedigm
DVD • $44.99 MSRP • Dub

Makoto Tachibana, Nagisa Hazuki, Rei Ryūgazaki, Haruka Nanase, Rin Matsuoka — FREE! Iwatobi Swim Club

The information presented here is as accurate as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

UP COMING ANIME DVD/BLU-RAY RELEASES

SPRING 2015

May 10

DENKI-GAI: Collectors' Edition 2
PONYCAN USA
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $89.98 MSRP • Sub

May 12

Darker Than Black: Season 1 Collection (Premium Edition)
FUNimation
Blu-ray • $99.98 MSRP

Darker Than Black: Season 2 + OVAs Collection (Anime Classics)
FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $49.98 MSRP

Digimon Tamers, Volume 2
Toei Animation/Cinedigm
DVD • $19.99 MSRP • Dub

Michiko & Hatchin: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
FUNimation
DVD • $34.98 MSRP

Michiko & Hatchin: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
FUNimation
Blu-ray • $39.98 MSRP

Muv-Luv Alternative - Total Eclipse: Collection 2
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

Muv-Luv Alternative - Total Eclipse: Collection 2
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Slam Dunk: Season 1, Set 1
Cinedigm
DVD • $19.93 MSRP

Student Council's Discretion Level 2: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $4998 MSRP • Sub

Student Council's Discretion Level 2: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $5998 MSRP • Sub

The Familiar of Zero - Rondo of Princesses: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $4998 MSRP • Sub

The Familiar of Zero - Rondo of Princesses: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

May 19

.hack//Roots: Complete Collection
FUNimation
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

Bubblegum Crisis - Tokyo 2040: Complete Collection (Anime Classics)
FUNimation
DVD • $39.98 MSRP • Repackage

Ninja Scroll: The Motion Picture
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $14.98 MSRP • Repackage

Vincent Lowell, Valerio Giacosa, Yūya Bridges, Yui Takamura, Stella Bremer — Muv-Luv Alternative: Total Eclipse

Ninja Scroll: The Motion Picture
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $24.98 MSRP • Repackage

PUCHIM@S! Petit iDOLM@STER: Season 1 + OVAs Collection
FUNimation
DVD • $19.98 MSRP • Sub; FUNi//TRSI exclusive

PUCHIM@S! Petit iDOLM@STER: Season 2 Collection
FUNimation
DVD • $19.98 MSRP • Sub; FUNi//TRSI exclusive

May 26

Magi - The Kingdom of Magic: Complete DVD Set, Volume 2
Aniplex of America
DVD • $74.98 MSRP

Nisekoi - False Love, Volume 4
Aniplex of America
Blu-ray • $64.98 MSRP • Sub

Soni-Ani - SUPER SONICO THE ANIMATION: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

Soni-Ani - SUPER SONICO THE ANIMATION: Complete Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Yosuga no Sora - In Solitude Where We Are Least Alone: Complete Collection
Media Blasters
DVD • $29.98 MSRP • Sub

June 2

Haikyu!!: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Haikyu!!: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

Ranma ½: Set 6
Viz Media
DVD • $44.82 MSRP

Ranma ½: Set 6 (SE)
Viz Media
Blu-ray • $54.97 MSRP

June 9

Knights of Sidonia: Season 1 Collection
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

Knights of Sidonia: Season 1 Collection
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

Knights of Sidonia: Season 1 Collection (CE)
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $99.98 MSRP

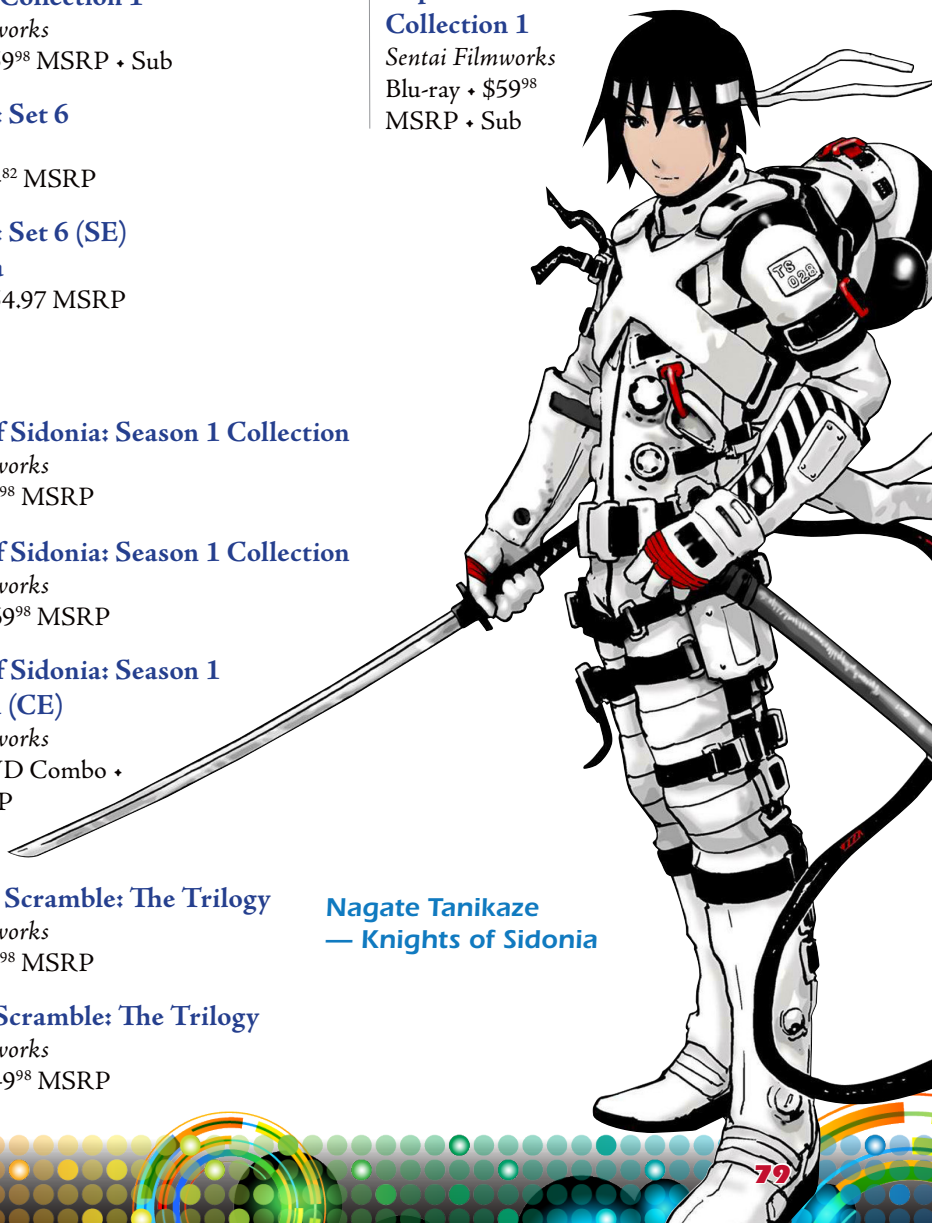
Mardock Scramble: The Trilogy
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $39.98 MSRP

Mardock Scramble: The Trilogy
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $49.98 MSRP

June 16

Captain Earth: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Captain Earth: Collection 1
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub



Nagate Tanikaze — Knights of Sidonia

TRODDLING IN WONDERLAND

BY IRENE CRUZ

DAISO
JAPAN

This week's Troddling in Wonderland, I found myself going to Daiso Japan in the City of Hacienda Heights [California]. Daiso is basically the Japanese version of Dollar Tree or 99 Cent Stores, although the prices at Daiso are mostly 1^{50}, unless otherwise noted, which personally it's not that bad for the variety of great merchandise they carry, most of which are Japanese, although on most items it says made in China, but its still good stuff for your dollar, especially when so many items are on the cute side that I could not resist picking a few items and making a mental shopping list of things to buy on my next visit. If any of you guys are ever in the Hacienda Heights, feel free to check out Daiso. Warning: Parking can get a bit scary, due the many eateries in the shopping area, some which are on my list of stopping by and checking them out, including a really cute bakery!

So stuff that I bought at Daiso Japan (just listing a few):
- Chocolate Pocky—1^{50} (now I know where to stock on my addiction)
- Animal bodywash mitten—1^{50} (it was just so cute, I couldn't resist)

Including a few other things I bought there, the total came out to $9.

Is this worth Troddeling? In Troddel points, I give it… **4/5 points**

BG by Amaya_Natsuyumi
Photos by Sherry Van & Jane L.

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Who's That Seiyu

Fukuyama, Jun
福山 潤

DOB: **November 26, 1978**
Fukuyama, Hiroshima

Blood Type: **A**

Current Roles…

Koro-sensei
Ansatsu Kyōshitsu

Arima, Ibushi
Chikyū Bōei-bu Love!

Triken, Genjūrō
Amagi Brilliant Park

Takayama, Naoto
Rail Wars!

Toyonaga, Toshiyuki
豊永利行

DOB: **April 28, 1984**
Tōkyō

Blood Type: **B**

Current Roles…

Ryūgamine, Mikado
Durarara!!x2 Shō

Nagachika, Hideyoshi
Tōkyō Ghoul √A

Midorikawa, Hekiru
Samurai Flamenco

Totsuka, Takeru
Kamigami no Asobi

Ishii, Makoto
石井真

DOB: **February 24, 1976**
Chiba

Blood Type: **AB**

Current Roles…

Makabe, Kazuki
Sōkyū no Fafner: EXODUS

Nishijima, Masumi
Mirai Nikki

Astrias
Guin Saga

Repede
Tales of Vesperia

Bridcutt, Sarah Emi
ブリドカット
セーラ 恵美

DOB: **February 5, 1989**
Iwaki, Fukushima

Blood Type: **B**

Current Roles…

Nonaka, Yūki
Shinmai Maō no Testament

Yamai, Yuzuru
Date A Live II

Yūbari
Kantai Collection

Seraphine
Disgaea 5

Kitamura, Eri
喜多村 英梨

DOB: **August 16, 1987**
Tōkyō

Blood Type: **A**

Current Roles…

Leopard
Yoru no Yatterman

Odagiri, Nene
Yamada-kun to 7-nin no Majo

Cerberus
Shingeki no Bahamut Genesis

Salia
Cross Ange

Hanae, Natsuki
花江 夏樹

DOB: **June 26, 1991**
Kanagawa Prefecture

Blood Type: **B**

Current Roles…

Mikuni
Orenchi no Furo Jijō

Torasaki, Aoi
Absolute Duo

Gilbert
Junketsu no Maria

RoRo
Inari, Konkon, Koi Iroha

ī of Winter 2015

Kanemoto, Hisako
金元 寿子

DOB: **December 16, 1987**
Okayama Prefecture

Blood Type: **B**

Current Roles…

Maria
Junketsu no Maria

Lisa Highwalker
Unlimited Fafnir

Midorikawa, Yuhata
Sidonia no Kishi

Kurahashi, Hinano
Ansatsu Kyōshitsu

Yasuno, Kiyono
安野 希世乃

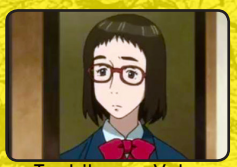
DOB: **July 9, 1989**
Tokushima

Blood Type: **A**

Current Roles…

Katō, Megumi
Saenai Hiroin no Sodatekata

Koneko
Re:Hamatora



Tachikawa, Yuko
Kiseijū

Kobayakawa, Tina
Wake Up, Girls!

Ishikawa, Kaito
石川 界人

DOB: **October 13, 1993**
Tōkyō

Blood Type: **AB**

Current Roles…

Haimura, Moroha
World Break

Sakurada, Sekito
Hero Bank

Mizusaka, Sōta
Sora no Method

Tigrevurmud Vorn
Madan no Ō to Vanadīsu

Maeno, Tomoaki
前野 智昭

DOB: **May 26, 1982**
Ibaraki

Blood Type: **A**

Current Roles…

Decim
Death Parade

Son Hak
Akatsuki no Yona

Shimada, Makoto
Haikyū!!

Naotsugu
Log Horizon Season 2

Kido, Ibuki
木戸 衣吹

DOB: **November 14, 1997**
Aomori

Blood Type: **A**

Current Roles…

Shimazu, Sakuya
Isuca

Urushiba, Rinka
Tōkyō ESP

Claire Rouge
Seirei Tsukai no Blade Dance

Hasegawa, Yume
Pupa

Matsuoka, Yoshitsugu
松岡 禎丞

DOB: **September 17, 1986**
Hokkaidō

Blood Type: **N/A**

Current Roles…

Aki, Tomoya
Saenai Heroine no Sodatekata

Mononobe, Yū
Jūō Mujin no Fafnir

Kokonoe, Tōru
Absolute Duo

Kasuga, Arata
Trinity Seven

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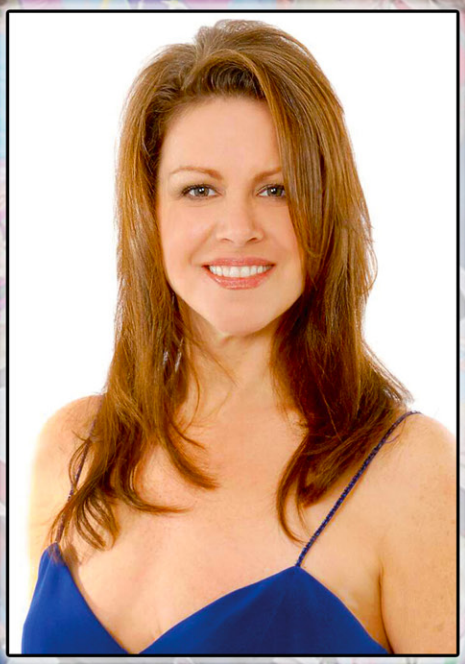

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BRINA PALENCIA
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J. MICHAEL TATUM
"SEBASTIAN MICHAELIS"

DANIEL FREDRICK
"GRELL SUTCLIFF"

LYDIA MACKAY
"MADAM RED"

JASON LIEBRECHT
"FINNIAN"

MONICA RIAL
"MEY-RIN"

IAN SINCLAIR
"BALDROY"

PHOTO BY BLUE DRAGON MEDIA

CONSOLE & DESKTOP GAMING

SPRING 2015

March 24

Bloodborne
Sony Computer Entertainment • FromSoftware
M • Action • PS4

Grand Theft Auto Online
Rockstar Games • Rockstar North
M • Action • PC

Slender: The Arrival
Midnight City • Blue Isle Studios
T • Adventure • PS4, XOne

March 26

Pillars of Eternity
Obsidian Entertainment
M • RPG • PC

March 27

Borderlands: The Handsome Collection
2K Games • Gearbox Software, 2K Australia
M • Shooter • PS4, XOne

Forza Horizon 2 presents Fast & Furious
Microsoft • Playground Games
E • Racing • X360, XOne

LEGO Ninjago: Shadow of Ronin
Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment • TT Fusion, Traveller's Tales
E • Action • 3DS, PS Vita

March 30

Dead or Alive 5: Last Round
Tecmo • Team Ninja
M • Fighting • PC

March 31

Axiom Verge
Tom Happ • Sony Computer Entertainment
NA • Action • PS4

MLB 15: The Show
Sony Computer Entertainment • SCE Studios San Diego
E • Sports • PS3, PS4, PS Vita

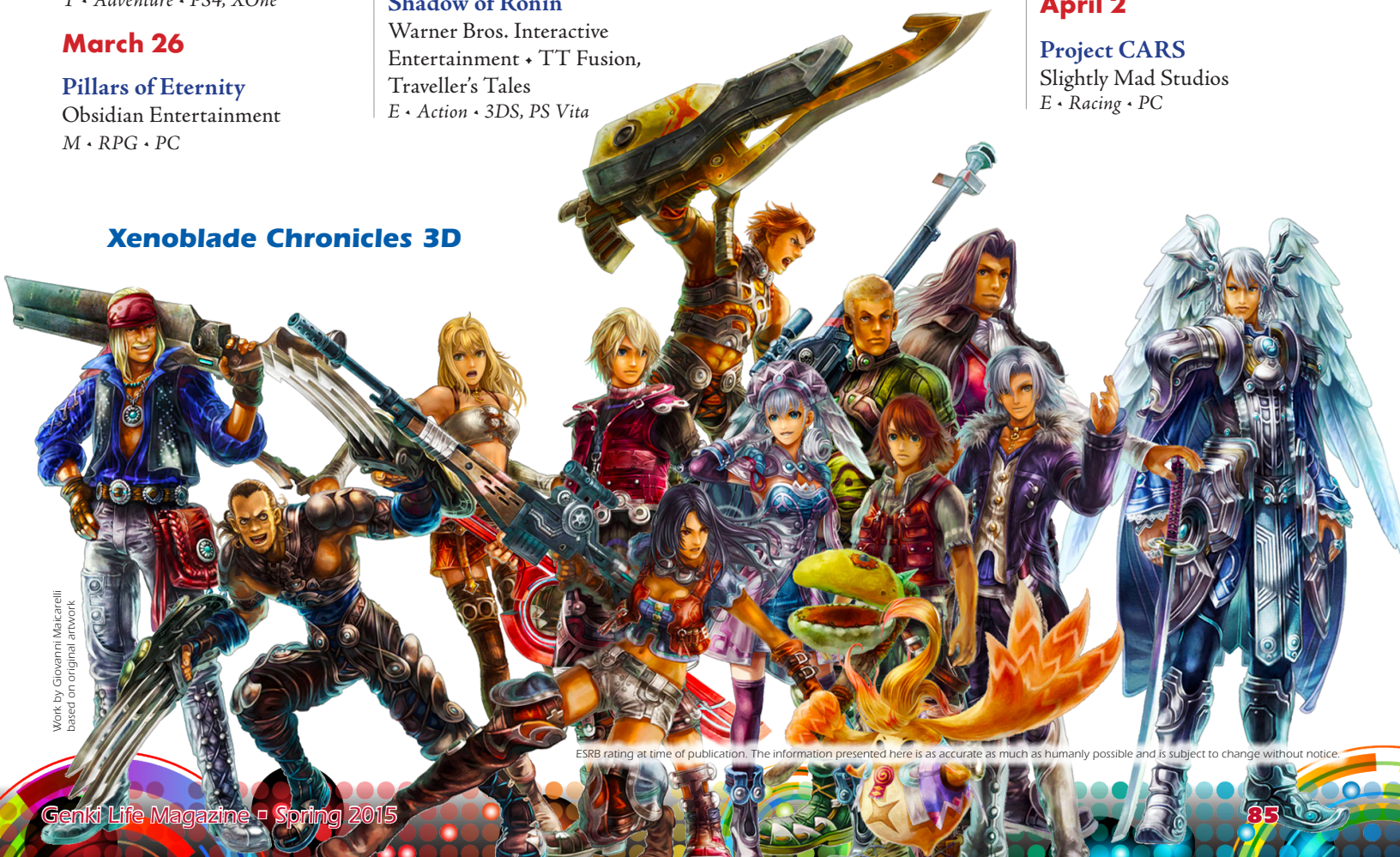
Neverwinter
Perfect World Entertainment • Cryptic Studios
NA • Action, RPG • XOne

Toukiden Kiwami
Tecmo KOEI • Omega Force
T • Action • PS4, PS Vita

April 2

Project CARS
Slightly Mad Studios
E • Racing • PC

Xenoblade Chronicles 3D



Work by Giovanni Maicarelli based on original artwork

ESRB rating at time of publication. The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

CONSOLE & DESKTOP GAMING

SPRING 2015

April 7

Bastion
Supergiant Games • Supergiant Games, BlitWorks
E • Action, RPG • PS4

Dark Souls II: Scholar of the First Sin
Bandai Namco Games • FromSoftware
T • Action, RPG • PC, PS3, PS4, X360, XOne

Etrian Mystery Dungeon
Spike Chunsoft • Atlus
E • RPG • 3DS

Project CARS
Slightly Mad Studios
E • Racing • PS4, XOne

April 8

Bloodsports.TV
Fatshark • Toadman Interactive
NA • Action • PC

April 9

StarDrive 2
Iceberg Interactive • Zero Sum Games
NA • Strategy • Linux, MAC, PC

April 10

Dead Synchronicity
Rock, Paper, Shotgun (RPS) • Fictiorama Studios
NA • Platformer, Adventure • PC

Xenoblade Chronicles
Nintendo • Monster Games, Inc., Monolith Software (JP)
T • RPG • 3DS

April 14

Grand Theft Auto V
Rockstar Games • Rockstar North
M • Action, Adventure • PC

Mortal Kombat X
Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment • NetherRealm Studios, High Voltage Software
M • Fighting • PC, PS3, PS4, X360, XOne

Titan Souls
Devolver Digital • Acid Nerve Studio
NA • Adventure • PS4, PS Vita

April 21

Shovel Knight
Yacht Club Games
E • Platformer, Adventure • PS3, PS4, PS Vita

April 24

Dungeons II
Kalypso • Realmforge Studios
NA • Strategy • Linux, MAC, PC

Kholat
IMGN.PRO
NA • Adventure • MAC, PC

April 28

State of Decay: Year One Survival Edition
Microsoft • Undead Labs
M • Action • PC, XOne

Tropico 5
Kalypso Media • Haemimont Games
T • Strategy • PS4

May 2

Space Hulk
HR GAMES • Full Control
NA • Strategy • Wii U

May 5

Shin Megami Tensei: Devil Survivor 2 Record Breaker
Atlus
T • RPG • 3DS

May 7

Not A Hero
Devolver Digital • Roll7
NA • Shooter • PC, PS4, PS Vita

May 12

Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster
Square Enix • Square
T • RPG • PS4

May 15

Blues and Bullets
A Crowd of Monsters
NA • Adventure • XOne

May 19

Ride
Milestone Studios
NA • Racing • PS4, XOne

The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt
CD Projekt
M • RPG • PC, PS4, XOne

May 26

Hatsune Miku: Project Mirai DX
Sega
NA • Rhythm • 3DS

Magicka 2
Paradox Interactive • Pieces Interactive
T • Action, Adventure • PC, PS4

June 2

Batman: Arkham Knight
Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment • Rocksteady Studios
M • Action • PC, PS4, XOne

June 9

Elder Scrolls Online: Tamriel Unlimited
Bethesda Softworks • ZeniMax Online Studios
M • RPG • PS4, XOne

Operation Abyss: New Tokyo Legacy
NIS America, Inc. • Experience
M • RPG • PS Vita

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Cristina Vee
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Rekless Krew

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Carl Martin
Shane Moore
Robert Midgett
Stellar Squad

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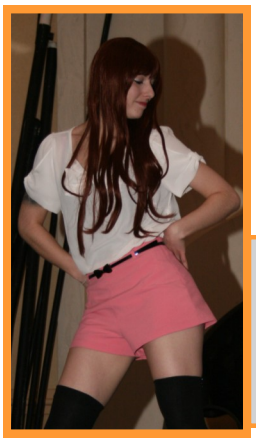

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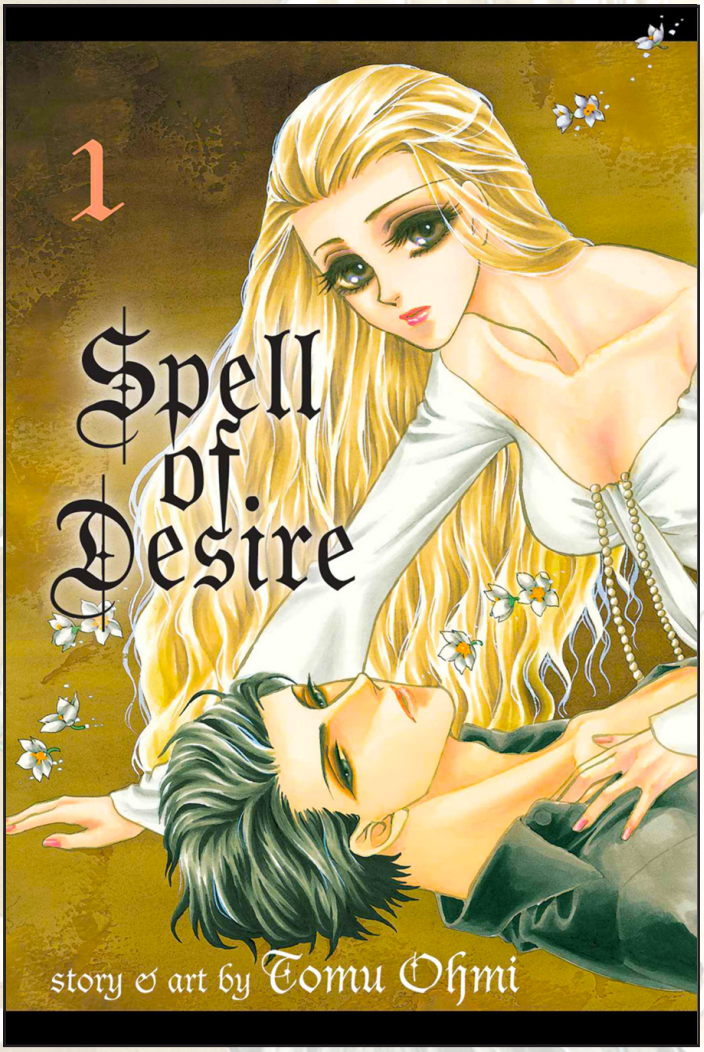
MANGA REVIEW

Spell of Desire



Raoruka Mochizuki is just an ordinary girl who runs an herb shop in a small town, learning her trade from her deceased grandmother. One day she gets a mysterious visitor, a man who claims to be a "Knight," tells her that she has powerful magic locked away inside of her and that he has been sent to make sure her entrancing aura does not get her into trouble. Oh! Did I also mention that the way he contains her magic is through a kiss that takes her breath away.

Story & Plot Impressions

This manga starts off rather calm and tame—the premise of a common person being visited by a "mysterious stranger" who reveals to them they are more than what they appear is not something completely uncommon in manga. However, what intrigues me about the way *Spell of Desire* sets it up is by immediately revealing why he is there without building up any suspense whatsoever (well, minimal suspense at best). It just outright tells you the reason Kaoruka was abandoned by her mother and left within her grandmother's care. By not beating around the bush, we are completely

Majo no Biyaku
(Spell of Desire)
魔女の媚薬
October 2011 – October 2013
5 Volumes (original run)
Shogakukan • VIZ Media, LLC.
www.vizmanga.com/
Author: Ōmi, Tomu
Genre: Josei, Romance, Supernatural
Format: Softcover/Manga
Pages: approx 192
Price: $9.99 MSRP

open to focusing upon the characters instead of wondering, "I wonder what is the story behind her?" yet it simultaneously removes a useful storytelling device by revealing bits and pieces of information to reveal her true origin at some other point and time, rather we may see the manga further elaborate on her background in more volumes. Though, this also brings up another device which will either make you adore or loath this first volume.

This manga has the mark of *Shojo Beat*, and while all manga normally have some form of romance in one form or another, shōjo-style manga seems to make it their central theme (which seems to be the opposite of what shōnen-style manga is, which normally focuses upon battle manga). A lot of this book has to deal with keeping the power from spilling out of Kaoruka. In order to do that, Kaname has to ensnare her heart and get her to focus upon a singular action, which is a kiss. A lot of this book focuses mainly upon her reactions to the fluttering of her heart and the sensations she feels when he is near or kisses her—a far cry from what I am typically use to but it was done in a remarkable way to keep you interested in their developing relationship, whatever that may be.

Knowing from the jump exactly what is going on in *Spell of Desire* is a plus, but at the very same time, it was something that could have easily been revealed in a way that makes you question who she is before finally announcing it. Not having a true antagonist revealed in the first volume is also a bit of a let down. But it also allows you to focus entirely on finding out the tendencies of both Kaoruka and Kaname. This manga, in itself, is a double-edged sword from what it offers as good and bad plot devices, but ultimately leaves you with a good feeling as you hit the last panel and is the most important thing. I am mildly concerned on exactly how introducing an antagonist will play out due to the lighthearted nature taken in the first volume. It also leaves for further emotional involvement on the reader's behalf because we became so fixated on them as an item. Brilliant.

Character Impressions & Development

Despite what this manga sets out as its goal for plot advancement early into the first volume, we get to see significantly more in the way of character advancement of Kaoruka and Kaname. This is done in a way that attributes features to the main character based on her grandmother and mother, while also revealing a bit about the true nature of Kaname, despite him being a little more than an enigma when he first met Kaoruka.

Kaoruka is given something of a childish innocence—all the more reason that her involvement with Kaname seems so inciting. We basically get to see a shy little girl evolve into an entrancing woman before our very eyes, learning about love and all the physical attachments which goes into being a woman. It also helps that she is very feminine. She is a kind person and we can tell she is understanding and

accepting. There is also something very naughty and alluring about her given the nature of her internal powers and how she seems to be lusting after Kaname after sometime. Spicy.

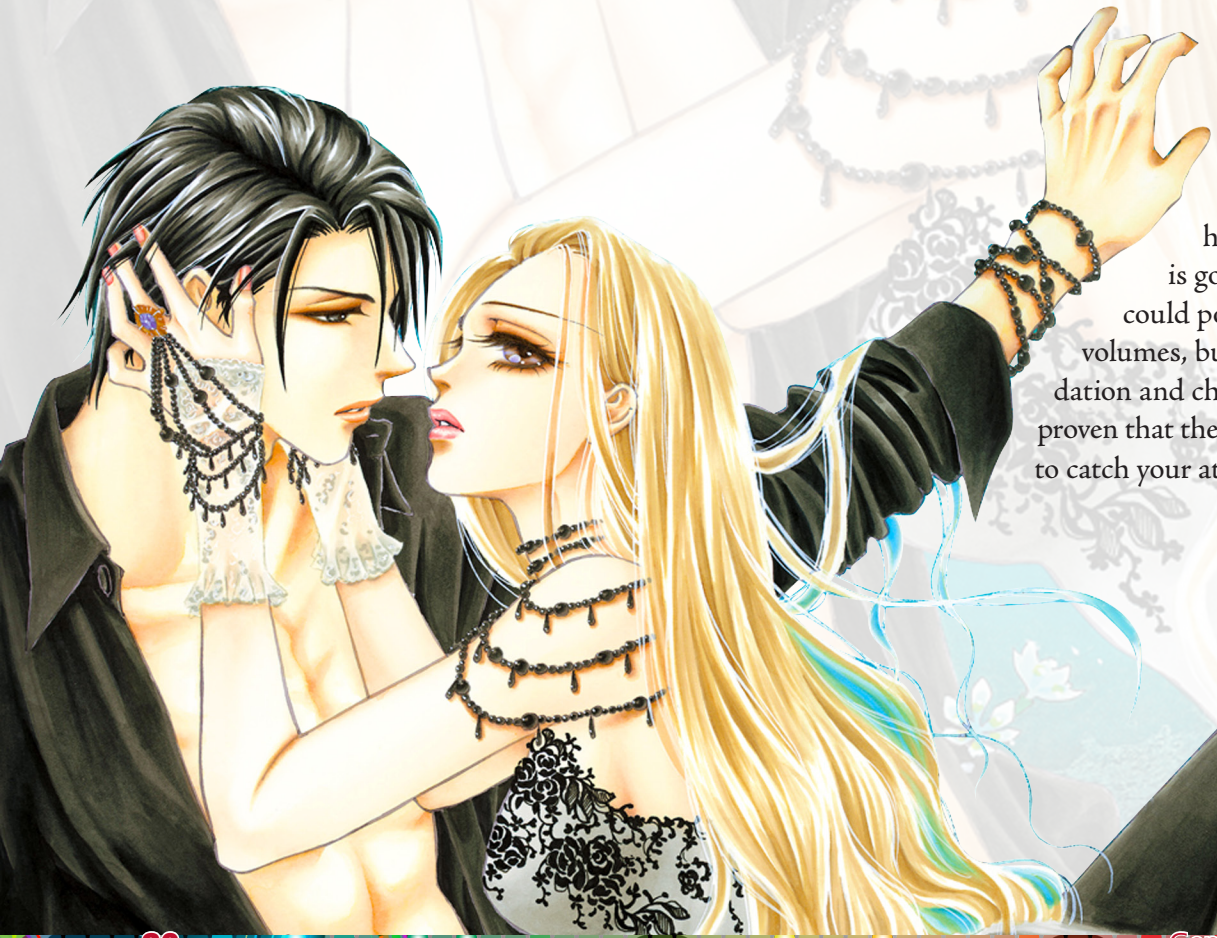
Kaname is a character that fits a typical character persona—a mysterious cool guy who has sworn to protect our protagonist and whom the heroine swoons over (Tuxedo Mask in *Sailor Moon*, anyone?). Initially I felt like this character is not very interesting at all. He is simply a means to an end to present somewhat of a love interest for Kaoruka and to bring out her personality. Kaname just felt entirely too military in his stern loyalty towards Kaoruka's mom, but he takes on a different side which came unexpected due to his look and demeanor. We can tell he has a heart of gold, but there is a hint of a mischievous playboy lurking within him and it shows in his teasing. Right now, I feel like he does not have any major faults. The only thing we vaguely see about him is possibly them hinting at a broken past which may come into play later on.

No idea if the two of them will be swept up in the whirlwind that is sure to come due to the power inside of Kaoruka. We also do not know if Kaname is just merely doing his job or has authentic interest in pursuing a relationship with our heroine. The development of Kaoruka and Kaname as individual characters is only beginning and currently lacking for the first volume of a manga. Their chemistry together overshadows this small fault and enables the reader to be fully drawn into their interaction.

The Verdict

Spell of Desire, volume 1, proved to be a good manga within its own right. Despite its ability to grab the reader's attention, it is not much for plot advancement, but when two characters have such chemistry you do not really need it. This is a good starting point that could snowballs into an excellent manga, but we will need a deep plot to justify taking a whole book to begin building the basic foundation for the relationship between Kaoruka and Kaname (that or their relationship should play a central role in everything).

I think this would be a good buy for someone who was into the shōjo series and wants something that makes you nervous for the main heroine. However, I have no idea where the manga is going at this point and that could pose a problem for future volumes, but it does have a solid foundation and characters whom already proven that their interaction is good enough to catch your attention. ❖ Rok the Reaper



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Nintendo

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MANGA PREVIEW

Yūsha ga Shinda! Murabito no Ore ga Hotta Otoshiana ni Yūsha ga Ochita Kekka.

by
Subaruichi (スバルイチ)

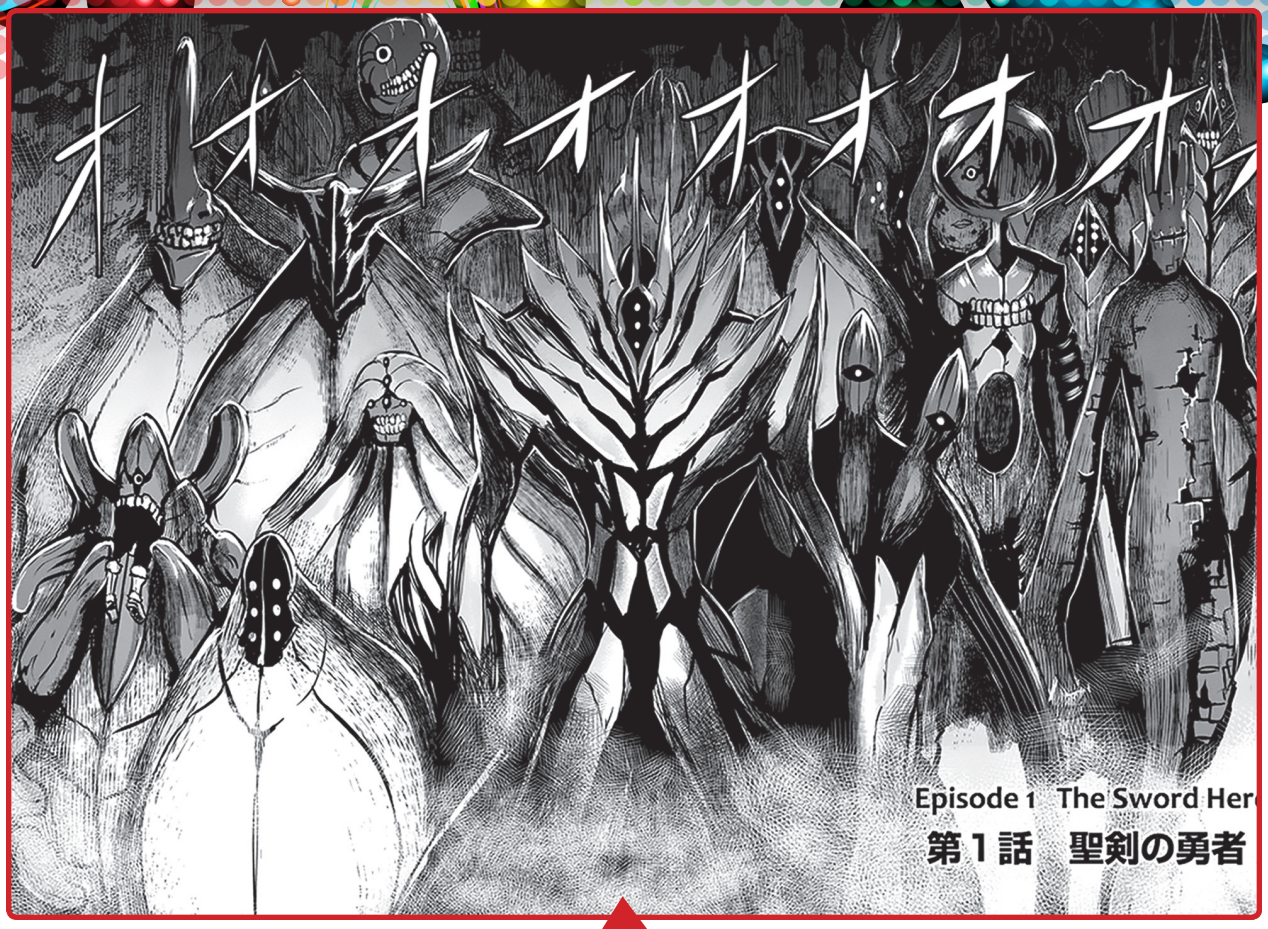
Tōka Scott is a radish farmer in the southern town of Cheza. In preparation for sudden monster attacks, he's built himself a hidden pit trap filled with bamboo spikes. Suddenly a monster attacks. Tōka tries to lure it into the trap with freshly roasted pork, but the monster dislikes this. Thankfully, Shion, the hero, arrives to save the village from the monster in the nick of time. Out of hunger, the hero tries to grab a bite of roast pork after vanquishing the monster, only to stumble into Tōka's pit trap and dies. After causing the hero's death, Tōka is forced by Anri, the necromancer, to take matters into his own hands to protect the region from attacking monsters.

Here's a preview of the first chapter. Be sure to support the author.

These pages are meant to read in spreads, side by side. The story flow will be off, if read page by individual page.

Yūsha ga Shinda!

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.



Stop Reading Here

Start Reading Here

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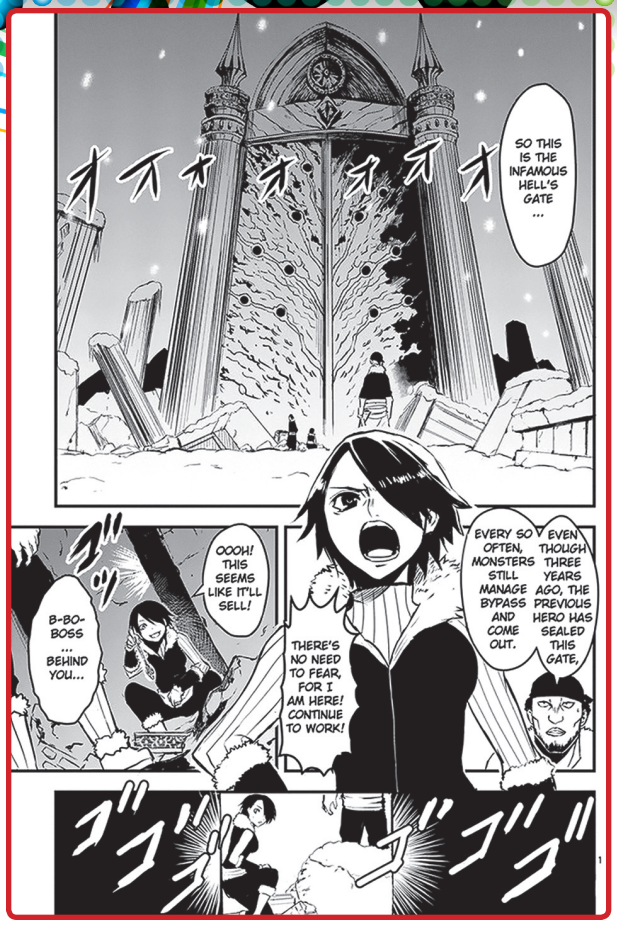


Tōka Scott

Your typical villager and farmer. He has a strange fetish about thighs. Always looking to keep his plot of land savfe from demons, he sets up pit traps everywhere for peace of mind. He's highly jealous of the hero.

Yuna Yunis

She's the childhood friend of Tōka is a tomboy despite out appearances. Tōka definately has feeling for her and also gives him a hard time about setting up the traps. She's totally in love with the hero.

Yūsha ga Shinda!

Yūsha ga Shinda! Murabito no Ore ga Hotta Otoshiana ni Yūsha ga Ochita Kekka.
(The Hero is Dead. The Hero Fell Into the Trap that a Villager Dug for the Village.)
勇者が死んだ！村人の俺が掘った落とし穴に勇者が落ちた結果

Manga One • Ura Sunday
December 2014 – ongoing

urasunday.com/yusya/index.html

Author: Subaruichi

Genre: Fantasy, Drama, Romance, Comedy, Ecchi, Supernatural

Format: Serialization
Price: NA

Shion Bladedarts

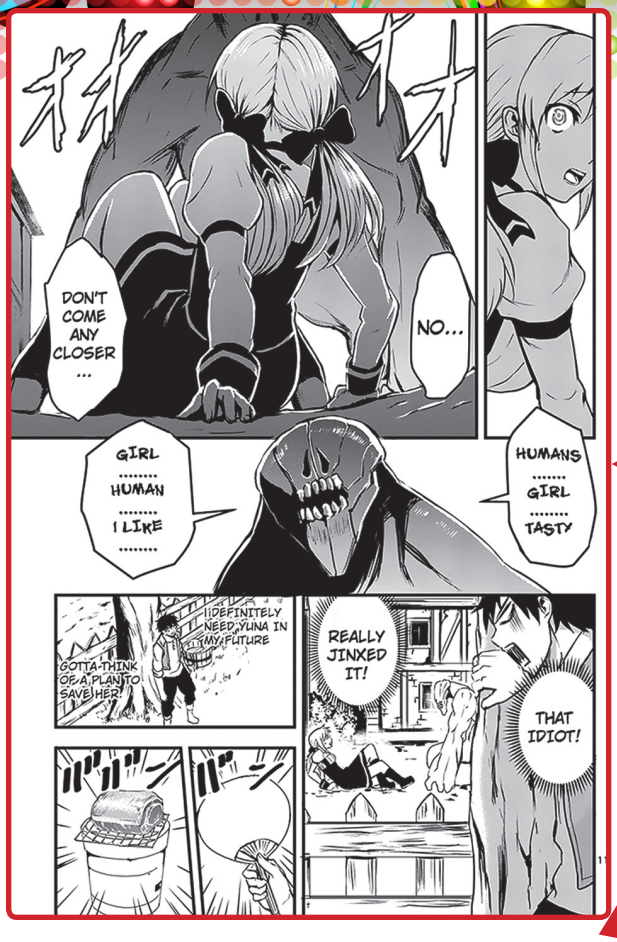
He's the hero of the story. A renouned warrior whose exploits have become famous around the area. An unfortunate befalls him.

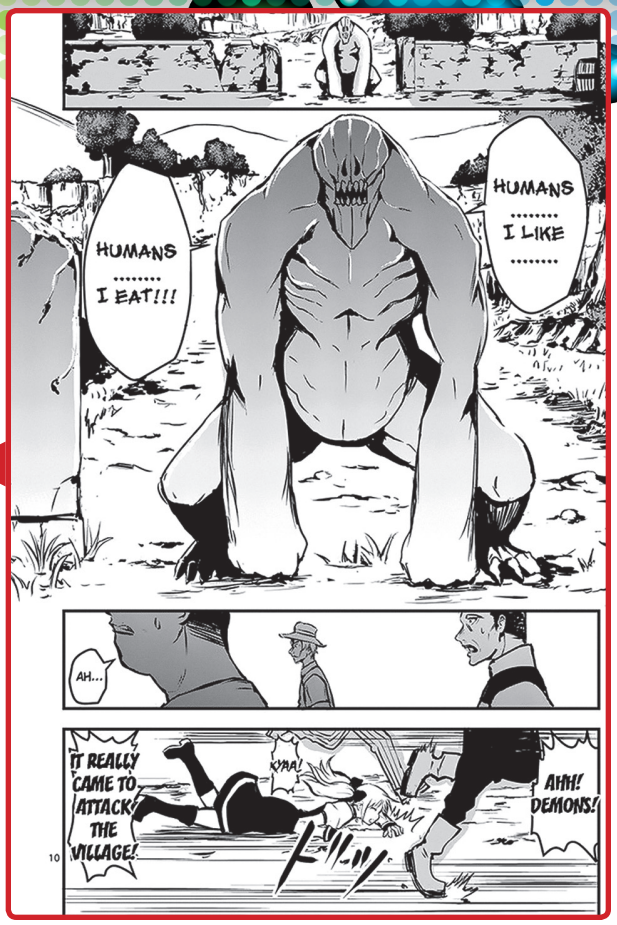
Anri Haynesworth

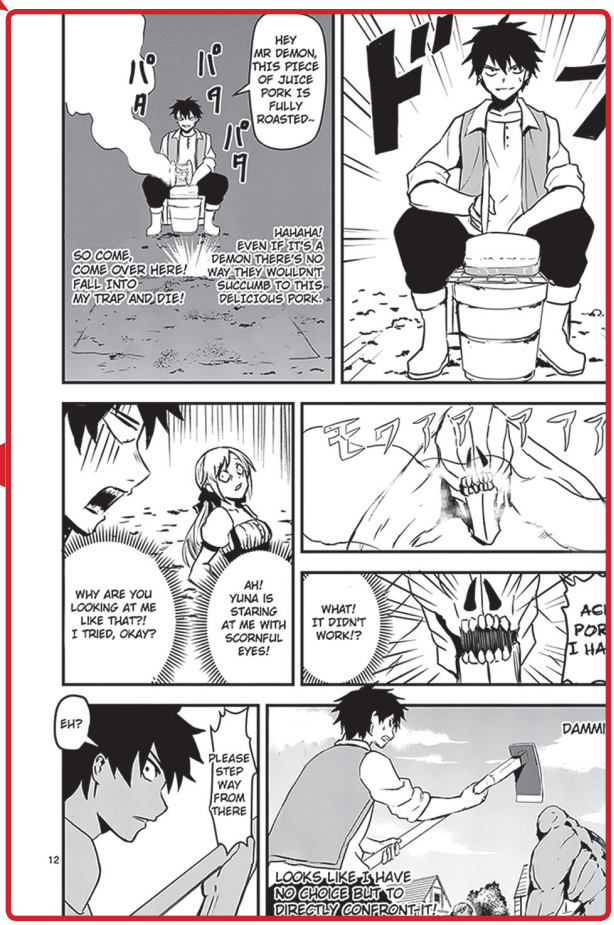
She's a necromancer who "help" change the life of Tōka, for better or for worse.

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

Yūsha ga Shinda!







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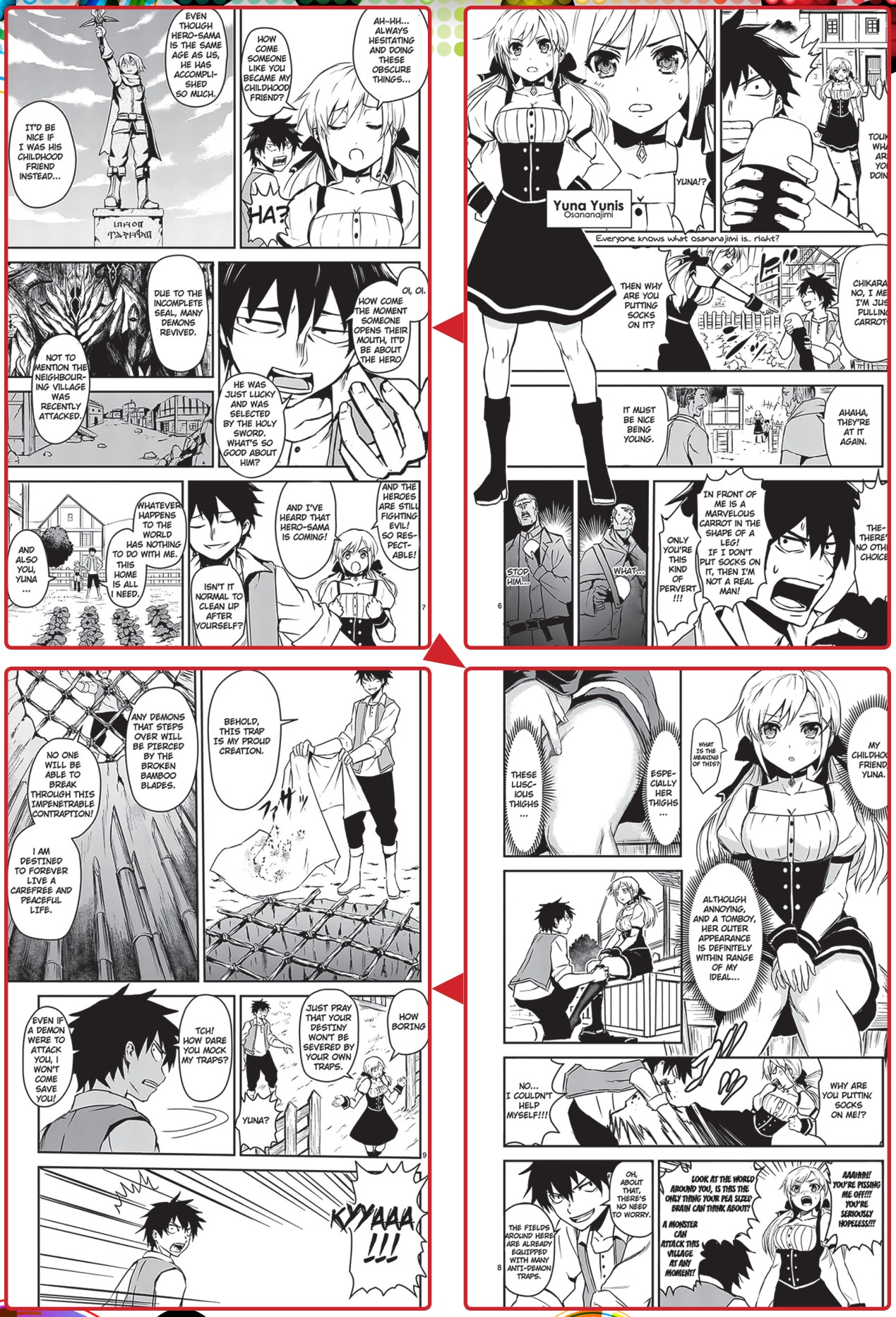
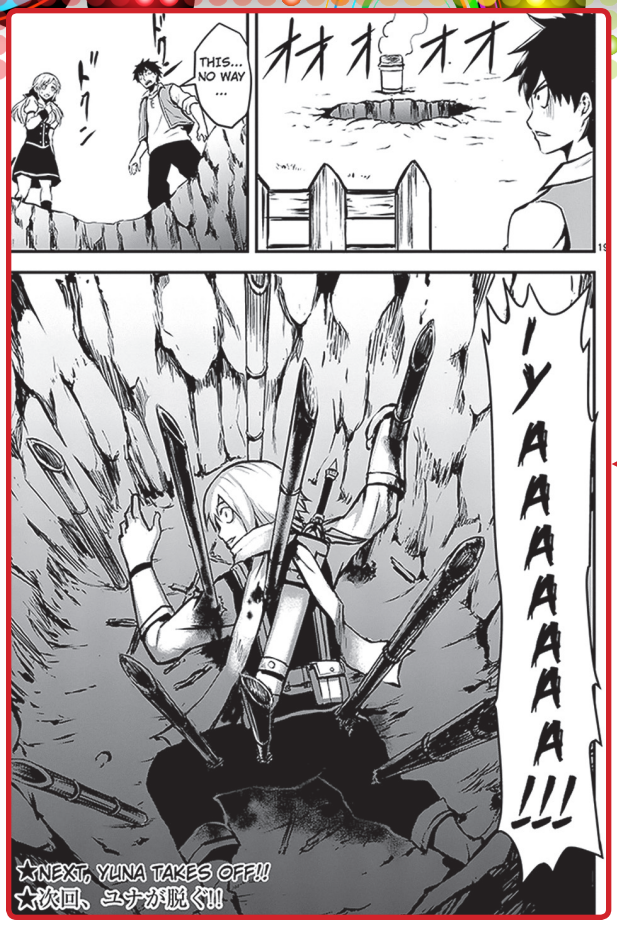

Start Reading Here
Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.
Yusha ga Shinda!
EVEN THOUGH HERO-SAMA IS THE SAME AGE AS US, HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH.
IT'D BE NICE IF I WAS HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND INSTEAD...
HOW COME SOMEONE LIKE YOU BECAME MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND?
AH-HH... ALWAYS HESITATING AND DOING THESE OBSCURE THINGS...
HA?
DUE TO THE INCOMPLETE SEAL, MANY DEMONS REVIVED.
NOT TO MENTION THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE WAS RECENTLY ATTACKED.
OI, OI. HOW COME THE MOMENT SOMEONE OPENS THEIR MOUTH, IT'D BE ABOUT THE HERO
HE WAS JUST LUCKY AND WAS SELECTED BY THE HOLY SWORD. WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM?
AND ALSO YOU, YUNA ...
WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THE WORLD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. THIS HOME IS ALL I NEED.
AND I'VE HEARD THAT HERO-SAMA IS COMING!
AND THE HEROES ARE STILL FIGHTING EVIL! SO RESPECTABLE!
ISN'T IT NORMAL TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF?
7
Yuna Yunis
Osananajimi
YUNA!?
Everyone knows what osananajimi is.. right?
THEN WHY ARE YOU PUTTING SOCKS ON IT?
IT MUST BE NICE BEING YOUNG.
AHAHA, THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
STOP HIM...
WHAT...
ONLY YOU'RE THIS KIND OF PERVERT !!!
IN FRONT OF ME IS A MARVELOUS CARROT IN THE SHAPE OF A LEG! IF I DON'T PUT SOCKS ON IT, THEN I'M NOT A REAL MAN!
6
ANY DEMONS THAT STEPS OVER WILL BE PIERCED BY THE BROKEN BAMBOO BLADES.
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THIS IMPENETRABLE CONTRAPTION!
I AM DESTINED TO FOREVER LIVE A CAREFREE AND PEACEFUL LIFE.
BEHOLD, THIS TRAP IS MY PROUD CREATION.
ファサッ
EVEN IF A DEMON WERE TO ATTACK YOU, I WON'T COME SAVE YOU!
TCH! HOW DARE YOU MOCK MY TRAPS?
JUST PRAY THAT YOUR DESTINY WON'T BE SEVERED BY YOUR OWN TRAPS.
HOW BORING
YUNA?
9
KYYAAA !!!
THESE LUSCIOUS THIGHS ...
ESPECIALLY HER THIGHS ...
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND YUNA.
ALTHOUGH ANNOYING, AND A TOMBOY, HER OUTER APPEARANCE IS DEFINITELY WITHIN RANGE OF MY IDEAL...
NO... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!!!
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING SOCKS ON ME!?
OH, ABOUT THAT, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
THE FIELDS AROUND HERE ARE ALREADY EQUIPPED WITH MANY ANTI-DEMON TRAPS.
8
LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND YOU, IS THIS THE ONLY THING YOUR PEA SIZED BRAIN CAN THINK ABOUT?
A MONSTER CAN ATTACK THIS VILLAGE AT ANY MOMENT!
AAAHHH! YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF!!! YOU'RE SERIOUSLY HOPELESS!!!

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

Yūsha ga Shinda!



This concludes our preview of
Yūsha ga Shinda!

This manga is be available
at
Kinokuniya Bookstores
www.kinokuniya.com
or at
your local Japanese manga retailer.

Stop Reading Here

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Yusha ga Shinda!

March 27-29, 2015 at Tarleton State University

TEXANCON 2015

Texancon.com

GHOST IN A SHELL MOVIE(S)?

Some people are confused about the information relating to the *Ghost in the Shell* movie. To clear up the confusion, there are two separate movies that will be produced.

1st news:

Coming this summer in Japan, a new *Ghost in the Shell* anime movie will be released. The animated movie will be directed by Kazuya Nomura who worked on *Xam'd: The Lost Memories*. The voice cast will be handled by Production LG, using the same voice actors from *Ghost in the Shell: Arise*.

2nd news:

The next *Ghost in the Shell* movie will be a live action movie handled by Dreamworks. The movie will be directed by Rupert Sanders and the starring role of Major Matoko Kusanagi will be played by Scarlette Johansson. The release date for the live action movie has not been announced yet. ❖

VAMPS

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Fort Rock Festival
Fort Meyers. Florida
JetBlue Park

April 26
Welcome to Rockville 2015
Jacksonville, Florida
Metropolitan Park

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